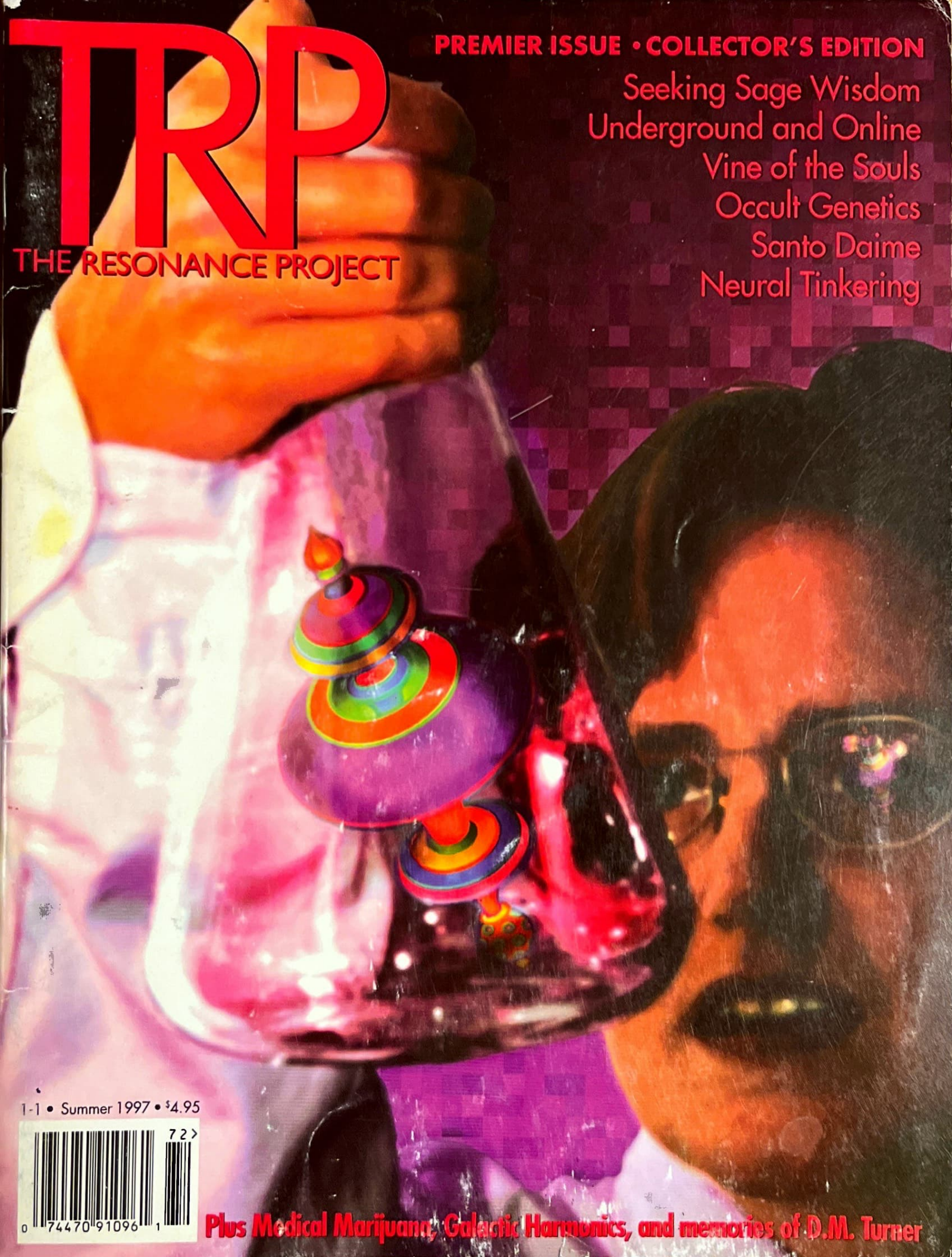
TRP
THE RESONANCE PROJECT
PREMIER ISSUE • COLLECTOR'S EDITION
Seeking Sage Wisdom
Underground and Online
Vine of the Souls
Occult Genetics
Santo Daime
Neural Tinkering
1-1 • Summer 1997 • $4.95
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Plus Medical Marijuana, Galactic Harmonics, and memories of D.M. Turner

See what some dead celebrities* are saying about

The Resonance Project

Utter Trash. No redeeming qualities whatsoever.
– Richard M. Nixon

Sounds suspiciously like a cult to me. To be avoided at all costs.
– L. Ron Hubbard

Yeah cool man, just keep doin' it.
– Jerry Garcia

Tongue-in-cheek pseudo-scientific claptrap. A waste of trees.
– Truman Capote

It's a little bit of this and that and everything else now isn't it.
– John Lennon

The Residents? I love the Residents. I'm so glad they have a new project.
– Sid Vicious

A delightfully esoteric blend of... hey! Quit trying to channel me! I'm not dead!
– Robert Anton Wilson

Far out. A neural blast for the psychoactive net-set.
– Timothy Leary

Funky and baffling. They throw a lot of big concepts at you real fast.
– Frank Zappa

Densely packed with techno-mystical nonsense. Mostly gibberish, but fun to read.
– Aldous Huxley

If you read this stuff you're smart, but most people will think you're a little weird.
– Bill Hicks

They fool no one.
– Aleister Crowley

*All dead celebrities channeled by Madame Slotskya of Hollywood, Psychic to the Stars. If you'd like to talk to your favorite dead celebrity, Madame Slotskya is now available for personal counseling, private parties, and estate litigation. Call 1-900-PSI-CHiC. ($3.00 for the first minute, $1.50 each additional minute. Under 18 get parent's permission.)

the resonance project

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Volume One • Issue One
Summer, 1997

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Special Thanks to
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THE REALLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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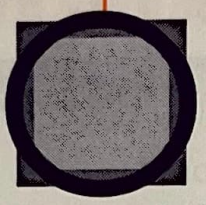
Questions, questions, and more questions...

What is it Why is it Here?



kay, what the hell is *The Resonance Project*? What are its goals? Is it science? Is it religion? Is it satire? Could it function as all these of things at once?

These and many other questions were carefully considered during this project's inception, "Why bother?" outranking them all. However, after hours of soul searching, the bottom line is simply that we are on a mission – a mission to elevate personal consciousness and help achieve unity of self and universe. Mind you, this is no small goal, and one little magazine could never hope to accomplish such a vast achievement on its own. No, we are just one small voice among the many who are working towards similar goals. Hopefully, our efforts will resound with others and help to push things closer to the critical mass needed for change.

In order to function smoothly as a pseudo-religious awareness movement, I have decided to dispense with the propaganda and give you our agenda right up front. *The Resonance Project* is:

- Using mainstream print media to promote self-directed mysticism and the pursuit of mystical mind states.
- Providing practical information and traditional techniques for achieving mystical mind states.
- Bridging the gap between science and mysticism.
- Exposing hypocrisy and deceit in media, culture, and society.
- Promoting theorists, artists, and organizations who are trying to make a difference.
- Having fun.

Why such a heavy emphasis on popular mysticism? Well, as the 20th century draws to a close, it seems that the global economic rat-race, the mind-numbing mass-media, and the diversions of corporate entertainment

why must you pester me so?

are threatening to eat up every last second of our precious thinking time. With all the distraction out there, it is very easy to lose one's sense of self and sense of place in the universe. The caffienated hustle and bustle of modern consumer society leaves little time for dwelling on life's bigger mysteries, let alone good old-fashioned self-exploration. So what's a post-modern pre-enlightened self-actualized wisdom seeker to do?

Fear not fellow sorcerers, we have your answer.

No matter what you've been told about mysticism, it is not really about prayer, religion, or a lot of spiritual hokum – nor is it about hair shirts, self-flagellation, and denial of carnal delights. In actuality, mysticism is the pursuit of a specific mental and physical state that allows the divine complexities of reality to unfold effortlessly before you. It is about learning how to tune your mind and body to tap into the great sea of knowledge that lies beyond the self. And the best part is that you don't need years of meditation or long hours of tortured chanting to have a mystical experience – in fact, many mystical experiences are totally spontaneous. However, once you know what one is like, and become familiar with the state, it may be quite possible to have a mystical experience on your lunch break, in the bathtub, while you're doing laundry...

Don't fool yourself, there are profound truths to be found in even the most mundane of life's experiences – and you don't need gurus, mantras, or funny haircuts to find them. There are many different paths to the center of the spiritual mandala, paths which wind through science, the occult, sacred ritual, and high technology. Finding overlapping maps of all of these paths is what *The Resonance Project* is all about. We vow to foolhardily and unflinchingly chase down each and every one of these paths, and report back to you on whatever we find.

Have fun and explore. Never stop learning about yourself – because that's what life is all about.

– James Kent

Are we having fun yet?

About the cover:

Synthesizing the Ineffable is an original collage created by Adam Chapman and James Kent. The lab technician is portrayed by certified midwife Kathleen Gaines. The ineffable object was created by cartoonist Jim Woodring (similarities to 3-D Timewave-Zero models rendered by Aix are totally coincidental, yet merit mentioning).

About the guts:

This issue of ***The Resonance Project*** was printed in two-color with soy-based PMS 2695CVC (purple body text) and PMS 1585CVC (orange background text) inks – odd choices we know, but we think it works. The paper is 50# recycled white opaque book stock. Common fonts used include Emigré Triplex and Matrix familes, and Adobe Futura and Gill Sans families. All pages laid out in Adobe PageMaker 6.0. Original art and illustrations created and/or digitized using Adobe Photoshop 6.0 and Macromedia Freehand 5.0.

On Being Human

Ruminations on who we are and where we're going...

by Kris Jepson

If you're reading this right now, there's a pretty good chance that you're human, or at least I hope you are. But when was the last time you stopped to consider what being a human actually means? At the most basic level, being human simply means that we share similar genetic characteristics that lump us under the genus/species modifier *Homo sapiens* — a self-proclaimed scholastic moniker meaning "wise hominid." But is that all there is to it? Are we just a bunch of socialized herd animals walking around congratulating ourselves for achieving the evolutionary pinnacle of sentience — or is there something more in store for humanity as a whole?

If you take a quick look around these days, you'll find that human achievement is a long way from stagnation. In fact, stagnation seems to be entirely antithetical to basic human nature. Every year we see new discoveries and achievements that totally blow the lid off of what came before. Records for human strength, endurance, and speed are continually being broken; technological advancements are rapidly making knowledge, information, and tools of discovery available to every citizen on the planet; and our current range of insight stretches from the most elementary subatomic particles to the furthest edge of the universe. Yet, as a species, we are still not satisfied with what we have achieved. Is there no end to our desire for progress?

Well, the simple answer is no, there is no end. Unlike the possum — who seems quite happy just being a possum — we humans are constantly wanting to go further, needing to accomplish just a little bit more, and yearning to be something greater than what we already are. I don't mean to place any value judgements on this kind of behavior. It is neither a good thing or a bad thing, it is just the way things are. So, taking into account this constant struggle to advance human achievement and potential, one is compelled to ask the question: Are human beings, as a species, evolving?

Evolution of a species does not happen overnight. It begins with very subtle changes in individual members...

On the surface, there are no real signs that *Homo sapiens* has evolved significantly over the past 40,000 years. There is very little difference between us and our early *sapiens* ancestors, except that our average height is six inches to a full foot taller than it was way back then. And granted, 40,000 years is a relatively short time for a species to evolve. According to popular anthropological theory, the leap from *Homo erectus* (standing hominid) to *Homo sapiens* took upwards of a million years to accomplish. In comparison, we're still well in our infancy.

But while we haven't changed much in the past 40,000 years, the face of the Earth has changed *dramatically*, and we humans are to blame. Instead of evolving our bodies to suit our environment — a task which can take millions of years — somewhere along the line we developed the ability to evolve our environment to suit our bodies. This is a strange twist to Darwin's theory that evolution of a species is forced upon it by environmental pressures; the evolution of our species is now *creating* the pressures.

Thanks to the ingenuity of *Homo sapiens*, we have conquered almost all of our natural predators, discovered how to grow food in surplus, cured the ailments which kill our young, and have gotten so good at surviving that we now dominate the planet like a plague. In the past 10,000 years alone, the global human population has grown from roughly

Taking into account the constant struggle of the human race to advance its own achievement, one is forced to ask the question, "Are human beings, as a species, evolving?"

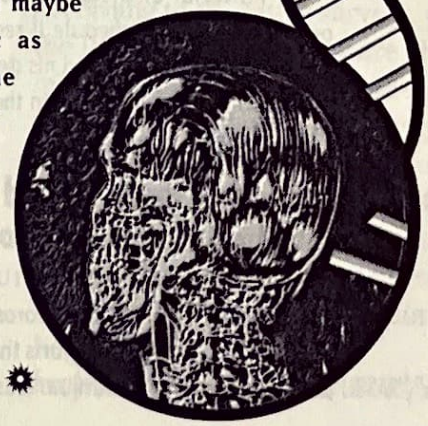
three million to nearly *six billion* people — that's a geometric doubling of the population every 1000 years or so. In fact, the human race is so hardy that we have found ways to live in every climate on the face of the Earth, thrive in the face of disease and disaster, and still keep growing. We have truly become masters of our own destinies, and barring the actual shattering of the planet by a stray asteroid, there seems to be no planetary threat so devastating that some wily group of humans won't figure out a way to survive...

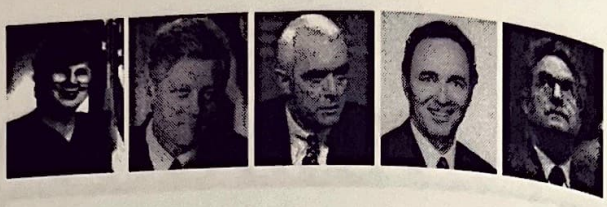
Sure, it's nice to pat ourselves on the back for being able to make it this far, but how much longer can we afford to stick with "business as usual" around here? Our own survival skills have gotten us into a situation where we are *too good* at surviving — so good that we are starting to run short on global resources. This planet isn't big enough to support too many more doublings of the population as a whole, and if it does, simple things like clean drinking water will become harder and harder to find. I would like to say that we are evolved enough to keep from turning on each other in times of scarcity, but I'm afraid there is too much evidence to the contrary to support such a statement.

Any anthropologist will tell you that change within a species doesn't happen overnight. Evolution happens very slowly, and only in small portions of the global population at a time. However, taking into account the human capacity for self-awareness, it seems likely that *individual members* of our species can *choose* to evolve on a personal level whenever they feel so inclined. By evolving on an individual level, I don't mean growing an extra limb or altering your DNA with high-powered radiation, I am talking about evolving the way you interact with other living beings, the planet, and the universe as a whole.

Personal changes of this kind need not be radical or dramatic to have an impact on the way you live. In fact, these personal evolutions are often just very subtle changes in the way you perceive your role in the world. Although these subtle changes may seem insignificant, each personal evolution has the power to affect all of those around you. Your words and your actions set examples for others to follow, and each new thought is a fresh seed in the garden of human possibility.

Right now, our human potential is teetering under the weight of its own achievement, and this poses an unusual and exciting challenge to our species. We have reached a point of critical mass which is driving us into new levels of existence, new modes of problem solving, and new frontiers of expansion. Like it or not, we are *all* responsible for the way our species enters the future, and maybe something as drastic as evolution is not the answer. Maybe we just need to start taking more responsibility for the future, and learning how to be better at being human.





Propositions CA 215 and AZ 151 get the whole nation all riled up over...

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Despite the federal government's multimillion dollar anti-marijuana lobbying efforts, voters in both California and Arizona approved propositions favoring legalized medical marijuana last November. The pro-medical marijuana lobby was primarily a grassroots movement, but it found support from the people, from the American medical community, and from a billionaire philanthropist who has vowed to help keep the movement alive in other states. Now that the feds have lost on two fronts, they are once again pulling out the old "anti-drug" slogans and putting pressure on physicians who dare prescribe the forbidden medicine. Will prosecutors seek convictions for doctors who legally prescribe *Cannabis*, and will the same old propaganda work on a new generation? We think not, but see for yourself how it went down...

New England Journal of Medicine Favors Medical Marijuana

In December of last year, Dr. Jerome Kassirer, editor-in-chief of *The New England Journal of Medicine* came out in favor of controlled medical use of marijuana, calling current U.S. federal policy "misguided, heavy-handed and inhumane."

In his editorial, Kassirer suggested that marijuana be moved from Schedule I into Schedule II so that it may be prescribed by a physician for medical purposes. He also called the current policy "hypocritical" because it prohibits doctors from prescribing marijuana, but allows them to prescribe morphine—a much riskier substance in many ways—for pain relief.

The editorial also stated that a DEA judge ordered the same Schedule II reclassification of marijuana in 1988, but had his decision abruptly overruled by higher powers in the DEA. (UPI)

Billionaire Soros To Fund Continued Medicinal Marijuana Efforts

In a major challenge to current U.S. drug policy, billionaire financier George Soros has offered to bankroll new grassroots efforts that could lead to wider legalization of marijuana use for medicinal needs. Soros, a noted philanthropist, said he was prepared to help finance ballot initiatives like those approved in November by voters in California and Arizona.

"The voters in Arizona and California have demonstrated that it is possible to support sensible and compassionate drug policies while still being tough on drugs," Soros wrote in a lengthy guest column in the *Washington Post's* "Outlook" section.

"I hope that other states will follow suit," he said. "I shall be happy to support (with after-tax dollars) some of these efforts." He disclosed he had personally contributed about $1 million to help fund the California and Arizona initiatives.

Soros added that "We must be particularly careful not to exaggerate the harmful effects of marijuana because it may undermine the credibility of our warnings about harder drugs." (Reuters)

Feds Harass Doctors for Advising Marijuana

Shortly after medical marijuana initiatives were passed in California and Arizona, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno made a public statement warning that doctors prescribing marijuana could be prosecuted for a federal crime and stripped of their authority to write prescriptions for anything. Shortly thereafter, government agents began harassing physicians who ignored the warning and began prescribing the medicinal plant.

The first reported instance of such physician harassment came from Robert Mastroianni, M.D., a practicing family physician in California. Two DEA agents questioned Mastroianni about his

The faces behind the issue, from left to right: U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno says docs will pay; President Bill Clinton doesn't want to send the wrong message; drug czar Barry McAffrey unleashes the hounds; California State District Attorney Dan Lungren shrugs his shoulders; and billionaire philanthropist George Soros gets ready for round two...

recommendation of *Cannabis* to "three seriously ill patients," shortly after the passage of California's Proposition 215.

According to Mastroianni, the agents questioned the doctor about his education and showed him a copy of the "letter of recommendation" for *Cannabis* that Mastroianni had written for one of his patients. It is not known how the DEA obtained the letter. They also requested that he give them his DEA number, which tracks the prescriptions that a doctor writes for controlled substances.

Mastroianni said that one of the DEA agents quoted a passage from an article from 1980s government-sponsored research on the effects of *Cannabis*. "He asked if I had ever read the article, whether I had studied literature on medical marijuana, whether I had attended any medical courses on medical marijuana, whether I offered marijuana for sale, whether I referred patients to sources for marijuana, and whether I had prescribed, as opposed to recommended, it.

"Many of his questions were professionally insulting," Mastroianni remarked in an affidavit. "They implied that I had acted unethically and in violation of the law." The DEA agents then informed the doctor that it was illegal for him to recommend or prescribe marijuana and that marijuana was a deadly drug for which there was absolutely no medical use.

"This comment and the questions which preceded it were clearly meant to intimidate me and dissuade me from treating certain of my seriously ill patients in accordance with my medical experience and professional judgment," said Mastroianni. "I am now reticent and reluctant to recommend the use of medical marijuana even if it is my ethical duty to do so."

Under federal policy outlined by McCaffrey in December in response to Prop. 215, doctors who prescribe *Cannabis* may lose their federal authority to write prescriptions, be excluded from Medicare and Medicaid programs, and even face criminal charges.

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, a coalition of local doctors and AIDS patients, have filed suit to block enforcement of federal law against *Cannabis*. The suit "challenges a draconian White House policy of intimidating doctors who simply seek to practice medicine responsibly," said Dr. Graham A. Boyd of San Francisco, attorney for the coalition.

Harvard Doctor Quits in Pot Protest

Dr. Lester Grinspoon, a psychiatrist who supports the medical use of marijuana, resigned from a Harvard University affiliated center for addiction to protest a lecture by President Clinton's drug czar Barry McCaffrey. Grinspoon said he doesn't begrudge retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey the right to speak against the use of marijuana, but he objects to McCaffrey saying that doctors who prescribe it could be prosecuted.

continued on next page ▶

Random Statistics

Two-thirds say "Yes!" to Medical Marijuana

According to a recent CBS News poll, allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana is favored by 62 percent of Americans, while only 33 percent are in opposition. (MSNBC)

Deaths Per Year...

Tobacco	**325,000-425,000**
Alcohol	**80,000-150,000**
Prescription Medications	**14,000-27,000**
Cocaine	**1,500-2,200**
Heroin	**1,000-2,000**
Other Controlled Substances	**500-1,000**
Aspirin	**180-1,000**
Marijuana	**0**

From the *World Almanac's* life Insurance actuarial death rates, and the last 20 years of U.S. Surgeon Generals' reports. Figures are for 1988 from the federal government's Bureau of Mortality Statistics and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, et al. — the last complete year at the time of this writing.

Number of Recreational Controlled Substance Users

The Federal Government's Household Survey on Drug Abuse, conducted annually, is the most commonly cited set of statistics on the prevalence of drug use. According to the latest surveys, cited by the DEA themselves, there are about 12.7 million people who have used some illegal drug in the last month and perhaps 30 to 40 million who have used some illegal drug within the last year. Of the 12.7 million who used illegal drugs in the last month, about 10 million are presumed to be casual drug users, and about 2.7 million are addicts.

from http://www.calyx.com/~schaffer/LIBRARY/basicfax.html

McCaffrey was invited to deliver the March 7 lecture on treatment for addiction as part of a conference at the Harvard Medical School. McCaffrey "has no scholarly accomplishments and is doing harm by insisting that patients who need this medicine desperately should be subjected to confiscation and arrest," Grinspoon said.

Grinspoon is editor of the "Harvard Mental Health Letter" and author of *Marijuana: The Forbidden Medicine*. He has resigned from his affiliation with the Norman E. Zinberg Center for Addiction Studies at Cambridge Hospital, but is still part of the Harvard faculty. (Associated Press)

Oregon Clinic Sells Medicinal Pot

According to *The Oregonian*, an illegal clinic dispensing marijuana to sick and dying people in downtown Portland has been operating for months. Patients who suffer from arthritis, multiple sclerosis, AIDS and other chronic diseases say they can buy an eighth of an ounce of marijuana for $20 to $50, depending on their income. Marijuana cookies are sold in $2 packs, and a pot-filled brownie goes for $3.

Patients allowed the newspaper to visit the Portland clinic on condition that the location not be disclosed. They also have other reasons for secrecy. "We are concerned about vandalism, about our safety when it comes to people thinking that there are a lot of drugs here and a lot of money. And we are afraid of being accosted outside on the street," said Diane Densmore, once convicted of possessing the drug that she said helps her fight chronic back pain, irritable bowel disease, scoliosis, arthritis and depression.

The clinic opened after California and Arizona voters in November approved the medical use of marijuana. Oregon's lawmakers are also currently considering bills to legalize marijuana for medical use. Although authorities are aware of the clinic, they also concede that hassling seriously ill people smoking marijuana is not as high a priority as fighting violent crime. (Associated Press)

Clinton Backs Anti-Drug Ads

President Clinton wants broadcasters to provide $175 million in public service advertising to discourage teenagers from using drugs, which the government would match with $175 million.

Although overall use of drugs has declined dramatically over the past 15 years — from 20 million people to 12 million, according to the latest government statistics, it has increased dramatically among teens over the past five years.

White House drug czar Barry McCaffrey believes one reason for this increase is that broadcasters sharply reduced their airing of public service ads — such as "this is your brain and this is your brain on drugs" picturing an egg frying — around the time of the Persian Gulf War in 1991. (Associated Press)

Thoughts from Dan Lungren...

"People say 'Challenge 215!' I challenged it before it was voted on. I don't understand this 'sore loser syndrome,' which is, we can't win in the democratic process so we've got to go win in the courts. When people pass anything now, it's immediately challenged in the court.

We tell people, 'If you don't like a law, go use the process and change it.' Well, despite my best efforts, they changed the law. And we're going to have to live with it."

— Dan Lungren, CA District Attorney

Former President of Mexico Corrupt

A multinational investigation into political corruption in Mexico has linked former Mexican president Carlos Salinas de Gortari to huge drug trafficking and money laundering networks that have been operating for nearly a decade. Officials also say that Salinas' family, political allies, members of his cabinet, and select law enforcement officials were also a part of the network.

Federal court proceedings held earlier this year in Houston revealed that the ex-president and others are tied to the Tijuana and Gulf drug cartels, which are accused of smuggling tons of cocaine into the United States. While some of those named have been tied by rumor or formal charges to other offenses such as illicit enrichment and murder, the allegations of ties to drug trafficking are new.

Salinas, who left office in 1994, is in self-imposed exile in Ireland. The reports cite testimony saying the former president was present on several occasions when drug trafficking arrangements were discussed, including one in which cocaine would be moved by plane in cans labeled as containing chile peppers.

Salinas' brother Raul Salinas de Gortari has been jailed since February 1995 awaiting trial on charges of tax fraud, illicit enrichment and masterminding the 1994 slaying of his former brother-in-law, Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, a top official of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party. Raul Salinas was recently interrogated by Swiss officials about the source of U.S. $84 million he deposited in a Swiss bank. According to attorney Eduardo Luengo Creel, Salinas says the money was from an investment fund put together by himself and wealthy friends. (AP World News)

US Targets Burmese Heroin Producers

Burma is the world's biggest heroin producer, according to U.S. drug experts. An estimated 60 to 70 percent of the heroin in the United States originates from the Golden Triangle, the area where the borders of Burma, Thailand and Laos meet.

In recent years the Burmese junta claims to have cracked down on the drug trade. Early last year it won the surrender of opium warlord Khun Sa, considered one of the region's top heroin traffickers. The surrender—as well as successful joint U.S.-Thai efforts to arrest high-ranking members of Khun Sa's syndicate—slowed the heroin flow through Thailand. But Burmese production remains high, and much of it now appears to go through China.

Since taking power in 1988, the Burmese government has convicted 32,797 people of drug offenses, and put 20 drug traffickers to death. However, the White House says Burma is not making a serious effort to combat drugs, and has ruled the country ineligible for foreign aid. Washington is also annoyed that the Burmese refuse to extradite Khun Sa to face an outstanding U.S. arrest warrant, or even try him under Burmese law.

The narcotic drug and psychotropic substances law mandates a penalty of 15 years to death for anyone convicted of trafficking more than 3 grams (0.1 ounce) of heroin. (UPI)

Housewives Busted in Drug Ring

Federal agents cracked an international drug ring that employed Long Island, N.Y. housewives to smuggle cocaine and heroin through customs in South America, Europe and the United States.

The women were recruited by traffickers to smuggle kilos of drugs packed in suitcases, because their innocent suburban looks would help them glide through customs. The women made a combined total of 15 trips a year, earning up to $10,000 for each successful drop.

DEA agents say the international investigation into this ring has nabbed a total of 23 people in Italy, Turkey, Virginia, and Long Island. (UPI)

U.S. Seizes Cocaine in Disney Books

On January 21, 1997, U.S. agents seized nearly half a ton of cocaine smuggled from Colombia in a ship container filled with cartons of the Disney book *101 Dalmations*, officials said.

U.S. Customs Service Special Agent Marty Ficke said investigators determined Walt Disney Co. and the importer and exporter of the books were not involved in smuggling the 806 pounds (366 kgs) of cocaine. The cocaine had a street value of $12 million. (Reuters)

Italy's Government Proposes the Release of Thousands of Addicts

The Italian government has announced plans to decriminalize drug consumption and put those found guilty of drug-related misdemeanors under house arrest or send them to rehabilitation centers. Drug addicts account for one-third of Italy's prison population, and under this new plan, some 15,300 drug users currently in prison would be released.

"There are too many of them, and prisonaggravates their problems rather than solving them," says Livia Turco, Italy's Minister of Social Solidarity .

According to official estimates, there are around 250,000 heroin users in Italy today, 500,000 cocaine users, 70,000 people taking amphetamines or LSD, one million hashish-smokers, and 200,000 people using other illegal substances. Deaths from drug use totalled 1,140 in 1995, up from 867 in 1994. The cause of death in 95 percent of the cases was heroin overdose.

The government proposal would include community service as an alternative for those who have been given light sentences for drug-related misdemeanors. The most controversial aspect of the reform project is a proposal to exonerate from prison sentences drug addicts who commit crimes such as theft in order to get their daily "fix." They would instead be sent to rehabilitation centers or sentenced to house arrest.

Those found in possession of small quantities of drugs for personal use were exonerated from sentencing by a referendum held in April 1993. (Inter Press Service)

Ruler of Liechtenstein Says "Legalize Narcotics"

The ruling prince of tiny Liechtenstein, one of Europe's last governing monarchs, says the world war on drugs has failed and has urged other European states to legalize narcotics under supervision.

Prince Hans Adam II said in a Swiss newspaper interview that he believed hard drugs such as heroin and cocaine should be distributed by the state to adults in special narcotics rooms under state supervision. "The drug policy that we have followed for years at a high cost has failed," the prince told the daily *St. Galler Tagblatt* about worldwide efforts to suppress drugs use. "This has led to nothing other than drug cartels and the Mafia amassing huge profits. We did not pay attention to the law of the market," he added.

Hans Adam said governments should cut organized crime out of the business by buying narcotics straight from the producers at prices higher than crime gangs pay and selling them at street prices at home. Asked whether he thought more people would use drugs if they were easier to get, the prince answered, "It is already very easy to get them, because the Mafia has set up an enormous distribution network due to the high profits and has also targeted schools."

The prince, who has executive power in his principality between Switzerland and Austria, said Liechtenstein was too small to start any such legalization alone in the face of United Nations and other world accords against narcotics. (Reuters)

Spain May Allow Growing Marijuana for Personal Use

Spain's drug laws are among Europe's most liberal. They allow people to smoke marijuana, but not grow it. Or do they? A regional court said it could find no law barring people from growing *Cannabis*, and the Supreme Court is studying whether the court is right. A ruling is expected any day.

The case has its roots, literally, in a two-acre plot of land outside the town of Reus, 40 miles southwest of Barcelona. In 1992, a marijuana advocacy group bought the land and raised a lush crop of *Cannabis* for their personal use. The group, whose 1,800 members include professionals and academics, told journalists about the marijuana plantation but didn't specify its location. It became a top news story and prompted a police hunt. But someone tipped off police to its location, and Spanish paramilitary Civil Guards raided the field and uprooted 450 plants.

Four members of the group went on trial for endangering public health, a common charge for drug traffickers. But a regional court found the defendants innocent last year because it could find no Spanish law prohibiting *Cannabis* cultivation for personal use.

If the Supreme Court rules that *Cannabis* cultivation is indeed legal, antidrug officials foresee pot fields on the horizon. "Instead of 450 plants, people will be growing 2,000," said Javier Zaragoza, Spain's top antidrug prosecutor.

If the Supreme Court confirms the lower court's ruling, parliament may try to pass a law making marijuana cultivation illegal. But deputies say it's premature to discuss the possibility before the Supreme Court's ruling.

Canadian Drug Suspect is Acid King of the '70s

The legendary Nicholas Sand — the man who was sentenced to 15 years for drug manufacture but appealed and disappeared while out on bail — is the alleged mastermind behind a Port Coquitlam LSD lab busted in September of last year.

Arrested and taken into custody under the name of David Shepherd, Sand, police say is the man who brought LSD to the masses. "He is right up there with Timothy Leary, Abbie Hoffman and Stanley Owsley... ...He is an icon in the world of illicit drugs."

Sand, 58, was one of seven men arrested in the Port Coquitlam bust. Police now say it was the biggest designer-drug laboratory in the world. The lab, an $800,000 custom built facility in which Sand lived, contained the material to produce 45 million active doses of LSD, and other psychoactive drugs worth $6 million. Police also found more than $500,000 in cash and gold bullion, along with guns. The lab had been operating about two years.

Sand had been arrested in 1974 with Timothy Scully, another brilliant underground chemist and protege of Stanley Owsley. Owsley is the chemist who supplied drugs to LSD guru Timothy Leary and his hippie followers in San Francisco in the '60s.

Sand was arrested again In 1990 when police raided a lab making LSD and designer drugs in B.C.'s Interior. He vanished on bail, and police never discovered his new identity until the arrest. According to authorities, he apparently just went to a safety-deposit box and pulled out documents that allowed him to take on another identity and he vanished.

Sand has been remanded in custody until his trial on charges of conspiring to manufacture, distribute and traffic in illicit drugs. (Province Newspaper)

"Sex Stone" Gets Man Convicted

Noel Owens never ate, smoked or licked his pellet of hardened toad secretion. He did rub it on himself though, and that could get him five years. Owens, 26, was convicted of possession of the illicit drug bufotenine after he testified Tuesday he used the fingernail-sized brown stone as an aphrodisiac.

Bufotenine is a hallucinogenic substance secreted by live *Bufo* toads. It is said to give one sexual powers and is sometimes licked off a toad's back. Sometimes, people dry and smoke the secretions for their hallucinatory effects, or use them in a tea. Others skin the toads and dry their skins.

Although he insisted he never tasted his "sex stone," Owens faces up to five years in prison and fines as high as $5,000 at sentencing. "He just carried it around in his wallet, like a teenager carries a condom," lawyer Robert Rush said. Her expected the judge would go easy, perhaps giving Owens probation. (AP)

JONATHAN OTT
AUTHOR OF *PHARMACOTHEON*
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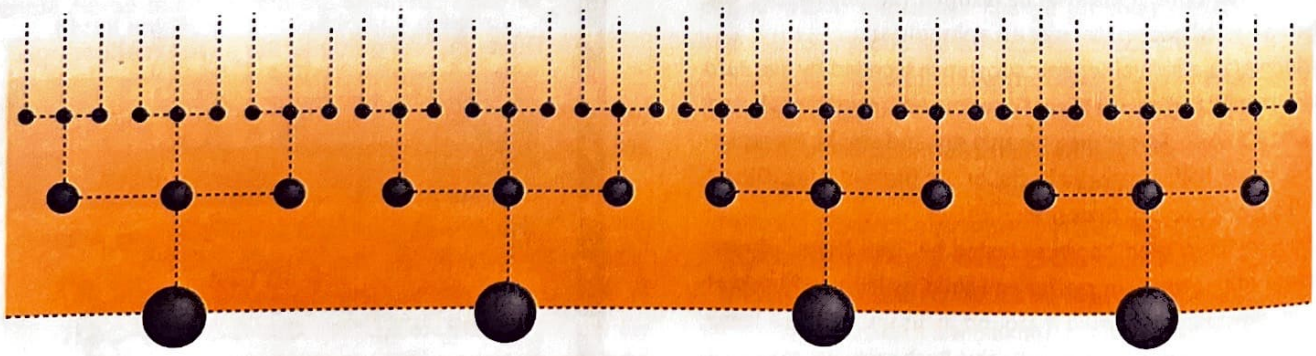
Pioneers of the Virtual Underground

SINCE THE VERY FIRST DAYS OF THE INTERNET, artists, psychonauts, stoners, hyperspatial explorers, ethnobotanical gardeners, chemists, mystics, ravers and activists have been exchanging ideas and building projects that they hope will one day change the world. Unlike the Real World™, where those who embrace the counterculture often have a hard time finding community, the Internet is a place where tribes can be formed without geographical or cultural limits. Those that were driven into the underground in the real world are now finding that the Internet is an incredible tool for expression, for the exchange of information and knowledge, and most importantly, for finding and befriending fellow freaks from all over the world.

by Andrew Edmond



Document: Toast

ONE OF THE FIRST VIRTUAL COUNTERCULTURES formed on the net was a mailing list called *FutureCulture*, created by Andy Hawks in early 1992. *FutureCulture* attracted cybercitizens enamored with the idea of using global telecommunication to launch a new counterculture — one that would mix people and ideas from around the world into a chaotic multicultural soup. In early 1992, there were only about three million people on the Internet, and what Hawks accomplished with *FutureCulture* was a landmark event. He created a "world community" where people from every corner of the planet could meet daily in cyberspace and make plans to move and shake the world as never before. Before the Internet, creative communities were constrained by physical locality. On the net, they replicated themselves like viruses — propagating and advancing new world memes at an astounding rate.

Though *FutureCulture* thrived for nearly two years with a rich and potent dialogue, Hawks eventually left, and as a result, several other counterculture lists began to grow. *Fringeware*, led by Paco Nathan, the *Leri* mailing list initiated by Scotto Moore, *MindSpace* formed by Jack Burris, and the *Visionary Plants List* moderated by myself, attracted many of the net's newest and most noted counterculture visionaries. Since the world's governments were still quite clueless about the virtual world, amazing events like 'net-trips' (people from around the world chatting while under the influence of psychedelics) went totally unnoticed by the powers that be.

In 1993, these first simple underground mailing lists began to spill over into Internet newsgroups. Virtual bulletin boards became town squares where people could post their poetry and favorite music, ask questions, share personal experiences, and discuss topics that in many countries would be considered illegal. The early mailing lists like *FutureCulture* were tightly bound communities of, at most, a few hundred people — but newsgroups like alt.drugs and others quickly grew to groups of thousands of loosely associated freaks within a period of months.

The newsgroup boom in 1993 is often referred to as the "Golden Age" of the Internet. After ingesting a lifetime of programmed media, this sudden "free trade" of information had netizens insatiably curious and driven to break all the rules. Activists such as Lamont Granquist began publishing and archiving controlled substance information, and pushing for intelligent and thoughtful discussions about drugs on the net.

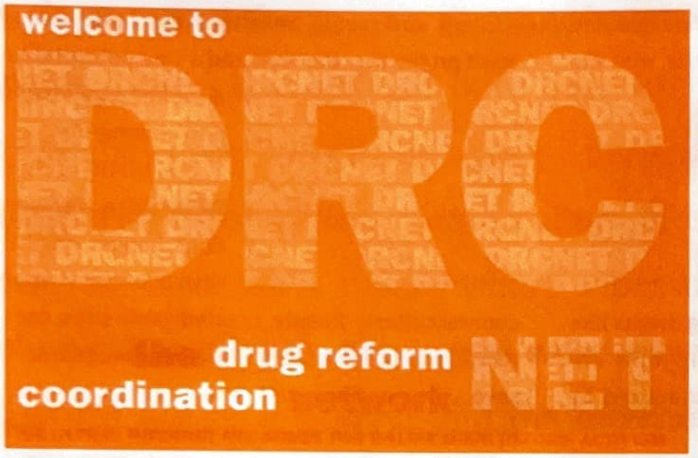
Other newsgroup hierarchies such as rec.music united ravers from around the globe into a village of enthusiasts. But the newsgroups also had their limits. As the Internet became more commercial, and more people from large services like America OnLine loaded onboard, the public newsgroups quickly became saturated with more misinformed chatter (noise) than actual useful information (signal).

Luckily, things on the net change rapidly. Just as newsgroups began to overflow, the World Wide Web burst onto the scene. Users were no longer limited to crude ASCII text and primitive chat software. On the Web, artists, activists, and hippies could now produce virtual art galleries and hypertext archives of underground information. With the ability to broadcast multimedia content and create links to every other document on the net, the Web had a vast potential as a tool of expression and community.

The birth of the Web had a tremendous impact on the revival of the virtual counterculture. People created Web sites specifically to promote sanctioned entheogen use, rave culture, harm-reduction, pagan events, hyperspatial techniques, utopian societies, and all kinds of paradigm-shifting ideals. Eventually, these sites grew to become virtual libraries of underground information, and began attracting thousands of hits a day.

One of the first counterculture sites to make a real presence on the Web was *Hyperreal*, created by Brian Behlendorf in late 1993. Behlendorf had been running a mailing list called SF-RAVES when the Internet gave birth to the Web, and he quickly put together a site on a server he had access to at Stanford University. Soon, *Hyperreal* was hosting a massive compilation of controlled substance FAQs; rave promotions and discussions; techno, house and ambient music reviews; online magazines; and more. As people flocked to *Hyperreal* in search of accurate information, a community began to bloom.

The era which follows the creation of the Web (that wink of an eye from 1994 to 1996) is often referred to as the "Internet explosion." It was during this time that many other equally creative and informative sites began to proliferate. *Paranoia*, run by KevinTX, broke nearly all the rules by publishing digital volumes of information on sex, drugs, and religion that would have been banned just a few decades earlier. KevinTX's "indecent" information was available in every country in the world — from Israel to New Zealand, and this amazing power to hurdle social barriers motivated others to push the envelope even further. In the span of a few years, sites like *Druglibrary* made large amounts of accurate information on controlled substances available to the general public. These



sites, including my own, *the Lycaeum*, have grown to become some of the world's largest and most versatile entheogenic libraries in the world.

A particularly interesting evolution in the cohesion of virtual countercultures came in the form of the *Drug Reform Coordination Network (DRCNet)*, created by David Borden and Adam Smith in 1993. *DRCNet* has taken the enthusiasm of the counterculture and combined it with the functionality of the Web to coordinate activism in the fight against the anti-drug establishment.

While on *DRCNet*, not only can you find useful information on hemp and medical marijuana, embarrassing statistics on how your tax dollars are being spent in the 'War on Drugs,' and articles which expose corruption within the agencies who profit from enforcing these laws, you can also e-mail form letters on specific prohibition issues to your representatives in congress.

Organizations such as the *Island Group*, the *Council on Spiritual Practices*, *Wired Magazine*, and a myriad of other zippie, hippie, rave, activist, and pagan enterprises evolved on the Web and saw their membership swell in a tide of enthusiasm. You can now find just about every counterculture community, organization, and publication represented on the Web, and many are also running mailing lists and discussion forums to strengthen communities and foster new ideas. And you know what? It's making a difference.

The impact of the Internet on the growth of the counterculture cannot be understated. In the 1990s, we have seen an increase in psychedelic exploration, artistic expression, transcendent music, pagan rites and rituals, and a host of other spiritually empowering practices. The Internet has been a catalyst for these explosions in culture because it allows you to locate people, information, and resources that would otherwise be unavailable. For the first time in history, millions of people from around the globe have access to endless information and the real-time exchange of new knowledge. Members of the counterculture are using this power to do nothing less than to try to change the world as they know it. And from where I sit, it looks like they might finally be winning.

Stay tuned.

Andrew Edmond is a computer programmer by profession, and a formally educated botanist. He is the Director of *the Lycaeum*, the World's Largest Online Entheogenic Library and Community. You can e-mail him at director@lycaeum.org

Site Index

FutureCulture Archives: http://www.hok.no/marius/futurec/
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A Closer Look at Amazonia's Visionary Plant Medicine

Vine of the Souls

story by Charlie Kidder, art by Motohiko Takuta

Every tree, every plant, has a spirit. People may say that a plant has no mind. I tell them that a plant is alive and conscious. A plant may not talk, but there is a spirit in it that is conscious, that sees everything, which is the soul of the plant, its essence, what makes it alive.

I feel a great sorrow when trees are burned, when the forest is destroyed. I feel sorrow because I know that human beings are doing something very wrong. When one takes *ayahuasca* one can sometimes hear how the trees cry when they are going to be cut down. They know beforehand, and they cry.

—Pablo César Amaringo
retired Peruvian ayahuasquero

Deep in the heart of the Amazonian rainforest grows a sacred vine known for its magical powers. This vine is known by many names, but the most well known of them all may be *ayahuasca* (aye·yah·wah·skah). In the Quechua language, *aya* means spirit or ancestor, and *huasca* means vine or rope. It is reputed that those who consume this vine of the souls are bestowed with the ability to commune with spirits, diagnose illness, treat disease, and even predict the future. While the existence of this vine is certainly no big secret, it is only recently that western science has decided to study the magical properties of this sacred medicine.

Archaeological evidence may date *ayahuasca* use in Ecuador back five millennia. However, western knowledge of *ayahuasca* dates back only as far as 1851 when a group of *Tukanoan* Indians invited British botanist and explorer Richard Spruce to participate in a ceremony which included a visionary drink they called *caapi*. Spruce only drank a small amount of the "nauseous beverage," but he couldn't help noticing the profound effect it had on his new friends. The *Tukanoans* showed Spruce the plant from which the *caapi* was made, and he was able to collect good specimens of the plant in full flower. Spruce named the plant *Banisteria caapi*, and further research led him to conclude that *caapi*, *yagé*, and *ayahuasca* were all Indian names for the same potion made using this one vine.

Since these early findings, indigenous use of various *ayahuasca* potions has been reported throughout the Amazon as far east as the Río Negro in Brazil and as far west as the Pacific coastal areas of Colombia and Ecuador. It is also found as far north as the Panamá coast, and southward into areas of Amazonian Perú and Bolivia. At least 72 indigenous groups have been found to use similar preparations known by a total of over forty different names.

preparation

Ayahuasca potions are normally prepared by soaking or steeping lianas of *Banisteriopsis caapi* or related species for various lengths of time. The specific method varies from group to group, but the simplest method is a cold water infusion where pieces of the stem are first pounded and allowed to stand in cold water, after which the plant material is strained off and the remaining potion drunk. Some groups will immerse the pounded stems in hot water, cooking the plant material anywhere from an hour to all day long. The longest of these preparation methods involves repeated boiling and filtering of the plant matter and extract until only a thick concentrate remains. This process normally comprises a whole day's work, taking up to fifteen hours to prepare a single batch.

Banisteriopsis caapi is often the only plant used to make *ayahuasca*. However, it is not an uncommon practice to add one or more admixture plants to the brew during its preparation. Admixture plants help to flavor the experience of each specific batch of *ayahuasca*, and often contain stimulants or visionary compounds, like caffeine, nicotine, or DMT. In *ayahuasca* potions made using DMT-containing additives, it is most likely that DMT is the key visionary ingredient, responsible for most if not all of the potion's powerful entheogenic effects.

pharmacology of *ayahuasca*

DMT was first synthesized in 1931, fifteen years before it was discovered to be a naturally occuring compound. DMT is found in many psychoactive Amazonian snuffs prepared from the resin of numerous species of Virola trees, and was first naturally extracted from a shamanic snuff made from the crushed seeds and pods of *Anadenanthera peregrina* in 1955. In 1956, Stephen I. Szára and colleagues became the first to experience the effects of the hydrochloride salt of *N,N*-Dimethyltryptamine via intramuscular injection at doses ranging from 0.7 to 1.1 mg per kg body weight. He found the drug to produce what he described as a "psychotic effect partially similar to that caused by mescaline or LSD-25." Szára found that after injecting 50 to 60 mg of DMT, entheogenic effects commenced within two to three minutes, lasting about 45 minutes to an hour. He described the effects thus: "Eidetic phenomena, optical illusions, pseudo-hallucinations and later real hallucinations, appeared. The hallucinations consisted of moving, brilliantly colored ori-

en•theo•gen

A word coined from the ancient Greek roots *en* (in), *theos* (God), and *genesis* (birth or becoming). This compound word can be translated literally to mean any plant, substance, or event which contains the power to awaken the God within.

The term entheogen may have been used in ancient Greece to describe potions which induced mystical experiences, and was brought back into modern usage by Jeremy Bigwood, Jonathan Ott, Danny Staples, R. Gordon Wasson, and Carl A.P. Ruck in 1979.

ental motifs, and later I saw wonderful scenes altering very rapidly. The faces of the people seemed to be masks. My emotional state was elevated sometimes up to euphoria..."

By 1977, it was established that smoking DMT free base produces a more potent and rapid effect than does injection. Thirty mg of DMT smoked was found to produce almost instant peak effects, lasting a total of only five to ten minutes. However, DMT has been tested in doses of up to an entire gram ingested orally without producing any effects whatsoever. So the question remained: Since DMT appears to be completely inactive orally, how can the average 29 mg found in an orally ingested dose of *ayahuasca* produce a visionary effect?

The answer to this question lies in the enzyme monoamine oxidase (MAO). This enzyme normally functions in our digestive systems to break down any monoamines present within the foods we eat so that they do not upset the balances of monoamine neurotransmitter metabolism going on in our brains. DMT, being a monoamine, is completely oxidized and decomposed by MAO in the gut when it is ingested orally. However, the ß-carboline alkaloids from the *Banisteriopsis* liana are know to inhibit MAO to the point where the accompanying DMT from the admixture plant can survive in the digestive tract and make its way to the brain.

The structure of DMT (as well as those of other entheogenic compounds) is remarkably close to that of the important modulatory neurotransmitter serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine, or 5-HT).

When DMT reaches the brain, it binds to serotonin's receptors and forces the brain to use different neural circuitry than normal.

Such neurotransmitter shuffling is thought to bring about the disinhibition of normally controlled and regulated processes within the brain. The binding of serotonin-like molecules to the 5-HT receptors affects serotonergic neurons which can stimulate a wide range of things – from repressed emotions and memories to the brain's image-processing system. This unique combination of neural stimuli results in a wondrous explosion of transcendent emotion and internal kaleidoscopic imagery.

shamanic use of *ayahuasca*

The *mestizo* shamans of the Peruvian Amazon generally refer to themselves as *vegetalistas*. These plant-doctors help the people of rural areas and the urban poor who often have no other available help in critical situations requiring medical attention. Most *vegetalistas* tend to specialize, using just one or few plant teachers in their practices. Thus there are *tabaqueros* who use tobacco; *toeros* who use various *Brugmansia* species; *catahueros* who use the resin of *catahua* (*Hura crepitans*); *paleros* who use the bark of various large trees; *perfumeros* who use the scents of various fragrant plants; and *ayahuasqueros* who use *ayahuasca*.

Ayahuasqueros believe that the *yagé* vine acts as medium through which they may invoke the spirits of many powerful admixture plants. The secret is in the brew.

The shamanic use of *ayahuasca* is usually within the context of healing. The shaman or *ayahuasquero* takes *ayahuasca* to better diagnose the nature of the patient's illness. *Vegetalistas* claim they receive their healing skills from certain plant teachers, who are believed to have a *madre* or spirit-mother. The role of the shaman is to mediate the transmission of medicinal knowledge from the plant teacher to the human world for use in curing.

The plant teachers are believed to teach the neophyte shaman a number of power songs or supernatural melodies called *icaros*, either during an *ayahuasca* session or in dreams following the ingestion of other plant teachers. The plant teachers give the magical songs to the *vegetalista* so that he or she may sing or whistle them during healing sessions. Some shamans place so much emphasis on the healing power of the *icaros* that once he or she has learned a good number of them, the *ayahuasca* is no longer necessary for healing.

Artist and Peruvian *vegetalista* Pablo Amaringo has painted a series of his past *ayahuasca* visions, depicting them in great detail. In order to do this, Amaringo will attempt to recall one of his visions, sometimes by singing the *icaro* he sang at the time of the vision. This brings back the image so vividly that Amaringo is able to project it onto a canvas and then simply trace it adding colors later.

Images from *ayahuasca* visions are a predominate feature of Amazonian art. It has been suggested that this visual art along with the melodies of the *icaros* combine with the synaesthetic effects of the potion to produce

continued on page 24

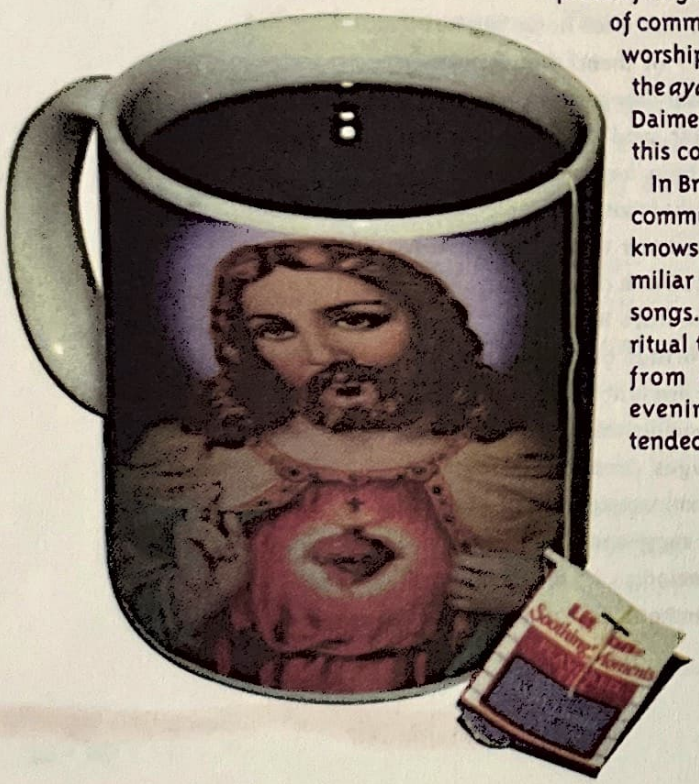
SANTO

by Charles Winstead & Susan Miller

Recently, a little-known South American spiritual group called the Santo Daime Church has begun making a name for itself in other parts of the world — due in large part to the church's ritual use of a potent vision inducing tea called *ayahuasca*. The spread of Santo Daime is an intriguing modern phenomenon — one that mirrors the revival of the Native American Church and the Peyote Way Church of God. Santo Daime is fully recognized by the Brazilian government, and is gaining recognition in the United States and around the globe. This surge of interest in Santo Daime seems to reflect a general movement in our world towards unconventional spiritual paths.

The Santo Daime church was founded in 1930 by a rubber–tapper in the Amazon rainforest named Raimundo Irineu, who while working in the forests came in close contact with the local indigenous population. After participating in a traditional *ayahuasca* ceremony, Irineu devoted himself to learning more about the magical drink, also known as *yagé*. He learned how to properly prepare the tea as well as how to prepare himself for the experiences that follow.

In an *ayahuasca* vision, Irineu claims he was visited by a woman whom he called both 'Our Lady of Conception' and the 'Forest Queen.' She told him to found a spiritual doctrine in which the drinking of *ayahuasca* would be central to the ritualistic worship. The Forest Queen also gave the drink a new name, '*Daime*.' The name in Portuguese means "give me," which has been interpreted to mean both a gift and a prayer to "give me love, give me light, and give me strength."



Along with the ritual use of *ayahuasca*, the doctrine of the Santo Daime includes worship of nature, Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary and other icons of the Christian faith. This combination of Christianity and Nature Religions is common in South America, and creates a unifying belief system where all can find comfort and healing.

One of the original goals of the members of Santo Daime was to create sustainable communities in rural areas. Their aim was to take people out of the poisonous cities and into the rainforest where children could lead healthy lives. Both the drink *ayahuasca* and the original visions for the Church emerged out of the rain-forests, and the people felt called to return to their place of origin. This created a strong sense of community and history among the worshippers. In fact, the power of the *ayahuasca* experience for Santo Daime members stems in part from this collective experience.

In Brazil the *ayahuasca* ritual is a community affair where everyone knows each other, and all are familiar with the procedure and the songs. Children were present at the ritual that I attended which lasted from early afternoon into the evening. In contrast, I also attended a ritual in California with a group of unaffiliated persons gathered together for one evening only. Few had prior experience with Santo Daime, and even less knew the songs. The participants seemed more concerned with their own process and less interested in the collective wisdom of the ages contained within the ritual. The participants at this session did not have the rich cultural history of working with *ayahuasca*. In fact for many it was their first introduction. In this situation, it was more difficult to achieve the unity that is often sought. Still, for those present, after several hours of dancing and singing there was a shift of consciousness. We were no longer diverse urban dwellers, but a community of worshippers.

This illustrates the vital role that music and dancing play in the Santo Daime rituals. There are hundreds of hymns in the Church, most written by Irineu, his successor Mato, and later Mato's son Gregorio — all of whom said they channeled the songs from the astral plane. These hymns were designed to invoke specific states of consciousness during the ritual work. Though the Daime is a powerful visionary substance, there is a need to focus the visions on positive and helpful energies. It has been said that without the music, one sees only snakes, which implies a dark, terrifying experience.

DAIME

illustrations by a. c. chapman

Sometimes during very intense sessions, a participant may be granted an *icaro*, or sacred song. Being granted a song is a very significant experience, and the leaders of the church usually cannot take a position of responsibility until they have received their own personal songs from the visions. Music also helps in the translation and recall of visions that occur, providing an important function in the integration of the mystical experience.

But even with the support of music, there are still times when the visions can become dark. One of the properties of *yagé* is a purgative effect which can be very uncomfortable and unpleasant — yet this is also seen as an important time in the work. The name given these dark experiences is *passagen* or 'passages,' referring to a difficult stretch on a path. As one of the worshippers at the California session reported:

> The pain was overwhelming and I had the urge to throw myself over the balcony to get rid of this dark energy that was possessing me. I held my ground though and allowed the experience to follow its own course. Finally, after feeling that my whole body was breaking apart, I had a huge spasm and vomited violently. Then the spasms stopped and I felt this amazing calm. I felt empty in a peaceful and powerful way. The darkness had passed and I was free.

Because of the intensity of the work that occurs in the Santo Daime ritual, there are prescribed preparations and warnings for the use of the *yagé*. Three days of preparation are recommended. No meat or dairy products should be eaten during this time, nor should one engage in sexual activity. It is recommended that you fast for at least three to six hours immediately prior to the work. This regimen should be continued for an additional three days following the work. Those people taking prescribed antidepressants such as Prozac are not allowed to take the Daime, as the MAO—inhibitors in the tea can be lethal when mixed with drugs containing serotonin inhibitors.

The sacrament of the Daime is what sets the Santo Daime Church apart from more traditional religions, and provides a profound experience for many who use it. However, as with the use of any mind-altering substances, the Daime should be approached with respect. Many believe that the key to the mystical experience is not contained solely in the specific chemical compounds of the Daime, but also exists in the community of those involved in the ritual. The sacrament is believed to align the body, soul, and mind to a higher universal good, bringing healing to all who are ready to accept it.

Charles Winstead, Ph.D. has been researching the use of entheogenic sacraments for a number of years. He has spent time with Native American and Brazilian shamen, and is currently working on a book on the phenomenology of shamanism.

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All quotes are from interviews conducted in 1996.

continued from page 24

an "aesthetic frame of mind" central to the healing process. The design the shaman paints onto his or her body is believed to represent a healthy energy pattern, and is often revealed by the *ayahuasca*. When a person becomes sick, their energy pattern becomes distorted. Under the influence of *ayahuasca*, the shaman can see the distortion in the patient's energy pattern and attempt to restore a healthy pattern using suction, massage, medicinal plants, hydrotherapy, and restoration of the patient's soul. The similarities between these shamanic methods and techniques used in traditional Chinese *chi-gong*, or "energy directed" medicine, should be noted.

Nature speaks through symbols. For example, the shape, color, and structure of plants constitute a language that with the correct preparation a *vegetalista* is able to understand. So it is with bird songs, the humming of insects, and the sound of the wind and the rain. Shipibo shamans knew about it. The designs on textiles and pottery are not just decoration, but a symbolic language that only wise persons can understand.

– Pablo Amaringo

Interestingly, a shaman usually chooses medicinal plants based on visible characteristics, like shape or color. For example, a plant which produces flowers shaped like an ear may be used to treat ear diseases. Part of the novice shaman's training involves scrutinizing nature to learn about the properties or "hidden virtues" within the surrounding plants and animals.

modern interest in *ayahuasca*

From the first written mention of *ayahuasca* by a Jesuit priest near the end of the 17th century to current research dealing with *ayahuasca*, our knowledge of this ancient Amazonian ethnomedicine has grown considerably. In just the last few decades, a fair number of publications have been written on the topic; anthropologists have begun studying how *ayahuasca* is used to heal; and research groups have started studying the potion's long-term physiological and psychological effects. Another interesting modern phenomenon is the growing number of Christian churches throughout South America who have opted for *ayahuasca* as their sacrament during communion instead of the usual symbolic bread and wine sacraments. These churches claim that the potion helps to promote intense concentration and direct contact with the spiritual plane.

The first of these *ayahuasca* churches were initially formed in the 1920s in Brazil, and today two groups, the União de Vegetal (UDV or 'Herbal Union') and the Santo Daime [see article on page 22], continue to flourish. These neo-Christian churches now mainly exist in urban areas, and represent the modern movement of ritual *ayahuasca* use from the primal rainforest into the big city.

In these churches mass is held once a week. The church members cultivate the plants needed to make the potion, and oversee its preparation and storage. On special occasions, *ayahuasca* is dispensed in small cups at communion. The dose is only a couple of ounces, but the *ayahuasca* they produce has been reported to be very strong. As the celebration usually lasts all night long, it is not unusual for members of the church to take several doses during the course of the evening.

In 1985, the Brazilian government added the *ayahuasca* liana to its list of controlled substances. The UDV soon petitioned the ban and the Brazilian government appointed a commission to investigate the issue. The commission found no evidence of social disruption associated with the sacramental use of *ayahuasca* (which the commission members tried themselves) and *ayahuasca* was removed from the Brazilian controlled substances list in August of 1987. More problems arose in 1988 when an anonymous source alleged that the churches consisted of fanatics, drug addicts, and ex-guerrillas given to smoking *Cannabis* and taking LSD during their rites. Yet another study of the issue was ordered by the government, this time to investigate the physiological aspects of *ayahuasca's* pharmacology. The conclusions of this study prompted the Brazilian government in June of 1992 to exempt *Banisteriopsis caapi* and *Psychotria viridis* – as well as the *ayahuasca* potion – from its illicit substances list. This legal decision has opened the doors to the further expansion of these churches, which have since held ceremonies in several cities all over the world. An international scientific research team, the Hoasca Project, has recently begun studying the long term effects, both psychological and physiological, of chronic *ayahuasca* use by these church members.

ayahuasca and the future

It is hard to say what the future may hold for *ayahuasca*. It could prove to be a useful tool in helping science better understand the biochemistry of consciousness and the genetics of pathological brain function. Pharmaceutical MAO-inhibitors are widely used in western medicine as anti-depressants, and further research into the psychotherapeutic benefits gained from the tryptamines remains to be done.

As far as religion is concerned, the potential for expansion of *ayahuasca*-using churches seems unlimited. Incorporation of a powerful psychoactive sacrament into religious ceremonies could have far-reaching effects on modern spiritual practices and beliefs. However, it remains to be seen whether entheogen users here in the U.S. would be attracted to the idea of psychedelic Christianity.

All in all, *ayahuasca* represents a unique plant-based medicine. The fact that its traditional use by Amazonian Indians has survived the continual influence of Western acculturation is testimony to the central and important role it has in their world-view. In fact, in many Amazonian tribes the first thing the parents will give a newborn baby is a drop of *ayahuasca* – right in the mouth. To them it is the supreme medicine, and a true gift from the gods.

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SAGE WISDOM

An intriguing member of the enormous botanical family Labiatea (mint) has recently exploded onto the entheogenic scene. Due in part to a wealth of new information on the subject, as well as the legal availability of both dried leaves and live cuttings, *Salvia divinorum* has become a center of interest for a new breed of psychedelic explorers. Through knowledge shared on the Internet, by word of mouth, and in recent books, this humble, rare plant from the highlands of Mexico has been able to rapidly propagate itself throughout the entire world.

description

Salvia divinorum has been known by a host of other names through time, including *Yerba de María* ("Herb of María"), *hojas de la Pastora* ("leaves of the Sheperdess"), *Hierba de la Virgen* ("Herb of the Virgin") and most commonly, simply "*Salvia.*" The English translation of the Latin name *Salvia divinorum* is also commonly used, with some referring to the plant as "Diviner's Sage" or "Diviner's Mint."

In *Plants of the Gods*, Hofmann and Schultes describe *Salvia* as "a perennial herb 3 ft (1 m) tall or more, with ovate leaves up to 6 in. (15 cm) and finely dentate along the margin. The [white flowers, bluish in old age] borne in panicles up to 16 in. (41 cm) in length, are approximately 5/8 in. (15 mm) long."

account

"... A typical element of the *Salvia* experience seems to be spirals and recursions. During one song, I was in a kind of tube which wound into a spiral and became more and more complex in more and more dimensions. I was completely stuck in this thing and thought I'd never be able to escape. Then the song stopped, and I was free."

from http://lycaeum.org/drugs/trip.report/salvia/sadi6.shtml

traditional usage

Little is known about Salvia's traditional use as an entheogen. It has been suggested as the most likely candidate for *pipiltzintzintli*, an ancient Aztec shamanic preparation. Some researchers dispute this claim, believing that *pipiltzintzintli* is in fact *Cannabis sativa*. At any rate, the Mazatec Indians of Oaxaca, Mexico, are the only people known to use *Salvia* in curing rituals at the present time (with the exception of recent experimentation by Western enthusiasts).

In the autumn of 1962, R. Gordon Wasson, (famous for having brought the ritual use of psilocybian mushrooms into the public eye with his *Life* magazine article), and the noted chemist Albert Hofmann took part in an expedition attempting to secure a sample of the magical plant for chemical analysis. The Mazatec *curanderas* (shamans) who had helped Wasson find the famous mushrooms were again very generous, and introduced the plant to Wasson and Hofmann's party. After securing the leaves, it was agreed that a *velada* (divining ceremony)

story by **Robert Campbell** · *illustration by* **a.c. chapman**

would be held. Hofmann presents the details of this ceremony in a wonderful essay entitled "Ride Through the Sierra Mazateca in Search of the Magic Plant *'Ska Maria Pastora.'*"

It was not surprising that the ceremony was very similar to those involving psilocybian mushrooms that Wasson had previously participated in, as the plant and the fungi seem to be used almost interchangeably in divining ceremonies. The *velada* did not begin until late at night. Candles and copal incense were lit, and pairs of leaves were laid out for each participant, with the *curandera* judging the dose — six pairs for both herself and Wasson. Hofmann was ill, so he refrained from ingesting the leaves, opting instead to just take notes.

As the ***salvinorin A*** enters the blood, the smoker will feel a humming or tingling which ripples in waves all over the body.

The *curandera* crushed the leaves with a stone *metate*, and the liquid was squeezed into cups. These cups were, as a final measure, bathed in copal smoke. Before consuming the potion, the participants were asked to make vows regarding their faith in the truth and holiness of the ceremony. The bitter potion was ingested, and, with the flames of the candles snuffed, the journey began.

The results of the *velada* were certainly intriguing enough to warrant further investigation by modern researchers. After 20 minutes, one member of the party saw "striking, brightly bordered images." During a later ceremony, the whole party, under the guidance of famed *curandera* Maria Sabina, took psilocybian mushrooms while Hofmann alone took a potion made of the leaves. Hofmann described the effects of the potion as a "state of mental sensitivity and intense experience." He did not, however, experience any hallucinations.

account

"I closed my eyes and lost all sense of my physical self. I roared through a void. I was surrounded by a space of myriad expanse, yet there was nothing there. I was exploding in all directions at once, expanding, twisting outward, yet there was nothing through which to be moving. I flew, I floated, I flourished. The dark matter sang with energy. Just as the abyss about me had a form, so its silence was an ecstatic polyphony. My senses rang with delight."

from http://lycaeum.org/drugs/plants/salvia/salvia-reports.htm

modern history

For some time the active ingredient in *Salvia divinorum* remained unknown. Because it bore no resemblance to any other known entheogen, researchers were baffled. However, thanks to many years of dedicated underground research, the primary active ingredient of *Salvia divinorum* has now been identified as salvinorin A ($C_{23}H_{28}O_8$) – the most potent naturally-occurring psychedelic ever discovered, being active in doses as small as 100-200 micrograms. This is only a slightly higher dose than is required for LSD-25, which is considered to be one of the most potent psychoactive chemicals known.

methods of ingestion

Salvia divinorum can be ingested in a number of ways. Tradition would have the practitioner drinking a liquid as explained above, or else chewing a quid of leaves for some time. Modern explorers, however, have stumbled upon other techniques which bypass the bitter taste and the length of time which the chewing must occupy. The first and simplest of these is to smoke the dried leaves. The psychonaut with more time and patience can prepare an extraction which is extremely potent – perhaps dangerously so (see precautions below). Smoking seems to be the most effective and enjoyable method of using *Salvia divinorum*, and is particularly suitable for first-time users. If the reader is interested in taking the leaves orally or preparing an extract, resources for further research can be found following this article.

a smoked entheogen

An ample dose for smoking *Salvia divinorum* is roughly two medium leaves, dried and crushed. These are loaded into a pipe (a waterpipe being preferred), and normal smoking procedure is followed. Although casually smoking the leaf is pleasant and will yield a mild psychoactive experience, experimentation has revealed a certain smoking technique which seems to be particularly effective at producing entheogenic results.

First, as with all entheogens, set (psychological environment) and setting (physical environment) need to be established. When using any psychoactive compounds for experimental or spiritual purposes, an environment approximating sensory deprivation always provides spectacular results. While the distortions of music, light, and other media can be amusing, they are quite trivial when compared to a breakthrough *Salvia*

experience in a dark and quiet room. Some explorers find that a bathroom or walk-in closet are convenient chambers in which to perform the ritual.

One should keep in mind that walking after smoking *Salvia divinorum* is difficult at best, so cushions or a bed are recommended. One method to insure darkness and comfort is to smoke the leaf while sitting on a bed, and then lie down and apply a blindfold as the first effects are felt. It is advisable to have an assistant present to remove the pipe and flame source after actual ingestion occurs.

Once a dark, quiet, and comfortable environment has been created, one is ready to smoke. A deep inhalation and even deeper exhalation help clear the lungs and prepare them for the heavy load to follow. It is imperative that the practitioner ingest as much smoke as possible in a single inhalation. With a slow but steady rhythm, the smoker should take the smoke deeply into the lungs. If you hold the smoke long enough, you should begin to feel the effects even before you exhale.

The *Salvia* leaf produces a relatively cool smoke, particularly when filtered through water, which does not seem to significantly diminish the potency. The smoking process will likely be enjoyed by all but the most sensitive of smokers. With correct setting, technique, and potent leaves, the single hit smoking method should be successful. However, those with a large body mass or resistance to entheogenic effects would do well to repeat the above procedure as many times as necessary. It should also be noted that many experimenters, especially during the first exposure to *Salvia*, have a difficult time 'breaking through' and often claim that nothing happened.

account

"I had the impression of being in a lunar emerald labyrinth that self-crystallized before my eyes. There were not full blown entities, but there was definitely creature-like and organic movement. It was silent, a visit to the ice palace, like watching winter pass in fast forward, a self-transforming orchestra of icicle geometries. Extremely pleasant to the eyes – entrancing really. It made for a half hour of brilliant elation and then began to recede, melt away, like the gossamer layers of glaze on a fine oil painting diffusing one by one, until I was left with only the unrefined vague gestalts which all too often inhabit my inner world."

from http://lycaeum.org/drugs/trip.report/salvia/sadi3.shtml

duration of effects

Within 30 seconds of the initial inhalation, definite changes in the smoker's perception should be apparent. As the salvinorin A enters the bloodstream, the smoker will feel a humming and tingling which ripples in waves all over the body. The "peak" of the experience will occur within a minute, and typically continue for as long as two to three minutes. The sensation abruptly tapers off after this point, leaving one quite near baseline within seven to ten minutes, and completely back to normal within twenty minutes to a half-hour.

For some time, the active ingredient in ***Salvia divinorum*** remained unknown. Because it resembled no other known entheogen, researchers were baffled.

There have been no known reports of users experiencing pain or discomfort when using the plant as described above. However, it should be noted that in some cases the smoker may experience small headaches or moments of slight dizziness which can last the rest of the day. This is generally perceived as a feeling of slightly altered or enhanced awareness, accompanied by the presence of unfamiliar energies in the body and mind.

Walking immediately after smoking *Salvia divinorum* is not advised. Severe distortions of time and space are the hallmark of the plant's effects on the human nervous system. It may appear that one's vision or center of gravity is being sucked towards the floor, or as in one amusing case, towards a wall. An extremely curious explorer might simply wish to stand and take a step or two to verify this effect, but please understand that many have already found out the hard way that stairs are an inappropriate place to enjoy *Salvia divinorum's* effects.

a precaution

Driving or operation of heavy machinery should not be considered safe until at least an hour of recovery has passed. As always, exercise caution when sampling this plant, as it is capable of very powerful alterations of perception. Please be warned that this is the wrong plant to use in public or during recreational activities. As *Salvia divinorum* is currently not scheduled, some have suggested it as a likely *Cannabis* substitute. However, the two are certainly *not* interchangeable.

model of salvinorin A
by Pierluca Illari

typical effects of smoked salvia

Salvia divinorum, like all entheogens, has different effects on different users. Still, some common themes present themselves. One of the most striking features of a breakthrough *Salvia* experience is the distortion of linear time. Sometimes, it seems as if one simply escapes linear time altogether and finds that all temporal coordinates are randomly accessible instantaneously. Visual distortions are also reported, but they tend to be vague, slippery, and ambiguous.

Many users report contact with hyperspatial entities, spirits, or intelligences, but the nature of these entities is rarely constant across different experiences. On the contrary, it seems the plant uses the personality of the explorer to present its message. Some have found that *Salvia* transports the practitioner to a state of meta-consciousness which seems to be both ancient and familiar – possibly a reflection of the state which one experiences before birth and after death.

It has been noticed that the distinction between the mental and physical becomes rather fluid after ingesting *Salvia*. The mind seems to be made of physical fields which can be manipulated like muscles. By experimenting and flexing these mental muscles, one will eventually become adept at navigating through the *Salvia* dimension.

Another persistent theme in *Salvia* trips is that of rotation. Several explorers have reported a feeling that is similar to the lateral rotation which excessive alcohol consumption brings about, yet not as nauseating. At times this rotation has been so powerful as to form an "edge" somewhere inside the body. I have at times even felt this edge scraping along the roof of my mouth. While startling, these effects are generally not unpleasant.

Another common observation in many *Salvia* trips is that some kind of tube or flexible tunnel appears which leads away from the explorer like a hallway. Some have related these tubes to spokes on a wheel, others as doorways to alternate dimensions.

There don't appear to be any long-term physical or psychological side-effects from smoked *Salvia divinorum*. It is over quite quickly, and many smokers have, in times of anxiety, successfully aborted a deep *Salvia* trip by just sitting up and "shaking it off." In fact, as the Mazatec suggested to Wasson, the correct attitude of acceptance and faith seems imperative in being able to make contact with the plant's deeper essence.

account

"When I exhaled, I received a flood of colorful visions, swirling patterns of light against a dark space-like background. This swirl formed a tunnel, which led from somewhere in front of me to "behind" my eyes. By thinking about it, I could move my perspective a little bit. My peripheral vision and imagination were filled with what seemed like two beings. One was old and male, one was young and female. They were encouraging me to look straight through the tube and align my center of vision with it. They were saying 'a little to the right, come on, don't wait until you are dead to see this. It is great!'"

from http://lycaeum.org/drugs/trip.report/salvia/sadi13.shtml

on breaking through

As mentioned earlier, many people attempt to smoke *Salvia divinorum* and fail to achieve any noticeable effects. One can only speculate as to why this occurs. It is certainly possible that smoking technique may be responsible for the success some enjoy, yet as the technique is so simple this is not very probable. It is more likely that the *Salvia* experience is simply a very fragile trance, and those who are more open to it are likely to experience deeper effects. It is possible that prior exposure to novel psychic states aids in the attempt to access the *Salvia* dimension, yet several seasoned explorers have nonetheless reported failure. It seems that as with *Cannabis*, many people simply need to "learn" to receive the effects by performing several attempts, usually achieving success after four or five.

It is also suspected that some leaf samples are either less potent to begin with, or that they lose potency when not stored properly. Upon securing some particularly potent leaves and realizing their effectiveness, they were shared with several people interested in the plant's effects. After being informed of proper technique, a nearly uniform success rate was achieved, with several of the experimenters reporting utter amazement at the power of the plant.

conclusions and further precautions

Taking into account the frequency of "hit or miss" experiences reported with *Salvia divinorum*, it is not surprising that it has remained relatively unknown for so long. Many have speculated that *Salvia* is not psychoactive in any way, but that it merely acts as a placebo. Others have argued that *Salvia* is only mildly psychoactive, and that its effects are usually

exaggerated. However, with the successful isolation of salvinorin A, *Salvia's* psychoactivity can no longer be doubted.

The effects of pure salvinorin A are quite intense. When smoked, the amount of salvinorin A that would fit into a glob on the tip of a needle could easily put a grown man into near catatonia in seconds. The effects fade within minutes, but since such a small amount is needed to produce such an enormous effect, many are wary that some under-cautious explorer will overestimate the necessary dosage. Although no lethal overdoses have been reported from *Salvia* or salvinorin A, many still fear that widespread distribution of pure salvinorin A will inevitably lead someone into an overdose or a bad accident. Let us hope this is not the case.

Salvia divinorum makes a lovely house plant, and is currently perfectly legal to both cultivate and possess. Your respect for the plant and its responsible usage will ensure that it stays this way.

The accounts of Salvia divinorum ingestion were taken from the Lycaeum Trip Report Archive, which can be located at **http://www.lycaeum.com**. *Note that these reports are taken out of context, and the serious researcher would do well to read the originals in their full form.*

Robert Campbell is an anthropology student with a deep interest in ethnobotany. He is curator of the Lycaeum's Trip Report Archive and specializes in collecting information regarding hyperspatial intelligences. He is currently living in Tokyo, where he is exploring *TransPacific Novelty*. He can be reached by e-mail at: mantid@lycaeum.org.

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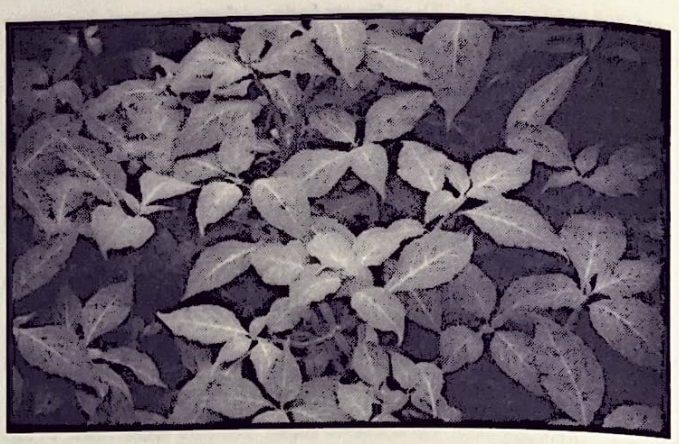
A step by step guide to cultivation, propagation, and keeping your *Salvia* plants happy.



by Will Beifuss

Salvia divinorum is a member of the mint family (*Labiatae*) which also includes such familiar herbs as oregano and basil. There are dozens of *Salvia* species, but *Salvia divinorum* is the only one known to contain the psychoactive diterpenes salvinorin A (at 96%) and salvinorin B (at 4%).

Salvia has hollow, square stems with winged edges. The stems are not very sturdy, but with support, the plant can grow to eight feet tall. Filtered sunlight is best, and the plant likes plenty of water and humidity. It rarely sets seed, and when it does the seeds are usually not viable. In the wild, the plant propagates by falling over and sending out roots where it touches the ground. In a high humidity environment, it is not uncommon to see roots forming on the stem even before the plant has fallen over. These root formations make cuttings an easy method of cultivation.

cutting & transplanting

To take a cutting, first cut off a branch tip that has four to six sets of leaves on it with about four inches of stalk below that. Place the cutting in water so most of the bare stalk is covered – tap water is fine and you don't need to add any nutrients. The cutting may wilt for a day or two, but should recover nicely. Mist the cutting frequently or keep it in a high humidity environment to ease the shock of being cut. In summer wait until the evening to take cuttings to prevent excessive wilting.

In about one week nodes will appear on the stalk where the roots will eventually emerge. In another week the roots will appear and grow to a length of 1/4" to 3/4" long. This is the time to transplant the cutting into soil. Keeping the cutting in water beyond this point will deprive it of nutrients, and longer roots are more susceptible to damage during transplanting.

Transplant the cutting into a medium sized pot using either commercial potting soil or your own formula. I make a mixture of one part each compost, peat moss, sandy loam, and a half part perlite. *Salvia divinorum* likes a friable soil rich in humus and with good drainage, so avoid heavy soils with a lot of clay. The plant also likes a lot of root space, so re-pot often for maximum growth. When you see growth starting to slow down, or the plant looking ragged, it's probably time to re-pot.

temperature & seasons

The ideal temperature is in the 60 to 70 degree range, but my plants have survived hot spells of 100° and night time chills as low as 35°. In hot weather make sure the plants have enough shade and plenty of water with frequent misting. In the summer I keep my plants on my deck and under 60% shade cloth. I have misters that come on six times a day for one minute, which is long enough to wet all the foliage. The misters are controlled by an electronic timer that screws onto my outside faucet.

The plants can put on four to five inches of growth during the six months they are outside. I have heard that the salvinorin A content is twice as high in the leaves during the summer, but this is anecdotal information.

In the fall, growth slows as temperature and light levels decrease. If the temperature falls below freezing, the plant will immediately turn black and die. If the root ball has not frozen, the plant can grow back – often quite prolifically because it has a large root system supporting the new growth. I know it's time to bring my plants inside when the leaves start to blush red from the cold nights. This reaction will disappear after a few weeks of being indoors.

flowering

Plants will flower in the fall when there are about ten to twelve hours of light a day. If you are bringing your plants inside under artificial light, you can prevent flowering by increasing the light to fourteen to sixteen hours a day. The plants will then go back to vegetative growth and put their energy into leaf production. I enjoy the flowers, so I keep my lights on for only twelve hours a day and let the plants go through their cycle. Each plant sends up a spike that can grow to be a foot in length, filled with many small bluish white flowers. The flowers have a very delicate, spicy scent.

Each flower spike will last about a month, but if you have many plants in different phases of flowering, the whole process can last two to three months. I know people who have grown *Salvia divinorum* for years without their plants ever flowering, even though the plants go through a period of shortened day length. The plants tend to get leggy during flowering, lose some of their lower leaves, and in general look a little ragged. Once flowering is over, start increasing the light cycle and the plants return to vegetative growth. Light can be increased to as much as eighteen hours a day for maximum growth. Anything beyond this can be detrimental to the plants.

grow lights

I am not a big fan of the high priced fluorescent grow lights marketed under such names as Vita Lite, Agro Lite and Grolux. One of these bulbs costs about $15. Five or six standard fluorescent bulbs can be purchased for this price and will do just as well. Fluorescent bulbs emit light predominantly in the blue spectrum which encourages leaf and stem growth, but are low in red light which promotes flower development. Unlike *Cannabis*, where the goal is flower production, the aim with *Salvia divinorum* is leaf production, so fluorescent lights are fine. Of course natural sunlight is best, but unless you have a greenhouse or a sunny location indoors, fluorescent bulbs will maintain your plants through the winter until you can get them back outside in the spring.

High Pressure Sodium (HPS) or Metal Halide (MH) lights can also be used. They come in 400w and 1000w sizes. Unless you have a large area to cover, the 400w is plenty. A 400w MH system costs about $200 and puts out as many lumens as twenty fluorescent bulbs. This fixture would provide enough light for an eight by eight foot growing space. However, you need to be careful to keep the light at least two feet above the tops of the plants. If the leaves start to blush red, then the light is too close. Leaves will lighten in color when exposed to high light levels; this is fine and does not affect potency. If you do use one of these lights, your plants will require more humidity as the extra heat the lights give off will quickly dry out the leaves. HPS lights are higher in the red spectrum and emit a golden light, MH lights are more balanced and are usually better for use with *Salvia divinorum*.

Humidity

One fallacy often heard about *Salvia divinorum* is that they need a lot of humidity to survive. In fact the plants do enjoy high humidity, and will achieve optimum growth if grown in these conditions, but they can be grown successfully in a low humidity environment with a few simple steps. The trick is to slowly acclimate the plant to a lower humidity environment over the course of several weeks. If you have ordered a cutting by mail, chances are good it came from a high humidity environment in a greenhouse. Give it high humidity initially by misting it often or placing it in a tent with a humidifier, but slowly reduce the humidity over the course of the next month. The plant will do just fine, and will be much less hassle for you. In the winter when my plants are indoors, I cover the walls with plastic sheeting and spray the plants three times a day with a pump-style tank sprayer. This takes less than fifteen minutes a day and I never have a problem with leaf edges turning brown – the typical sign that the humidity is too low.

If you are going to grow your plants in a high humidity environment, don't make the mistake of thinking that you don't need to water them much They still require regular watering even with humidity levels in the 90% range. I do not like using tightly sealed tents or other grow chambers, these do not allow for a healthy flow of air and such stagnant conditions encourage the growth of molds and bacteria.

pests & prevention

The most common pests of *Salvia divinorum* are whiteflies and aphids. Both of these insects live on the underside of leaves, preferring the new growth on the top half of the plant. Aphids will also cluster on the stems. Whiteflies are small insects with bright white wings. Their pupa are light green and look like small grains of rice. All stages suck on plant juices, and heavily infested plants will yellow and grow poorly. If the infestation is left unchecked, the plants can die from a black sooty mold that grows on the honeydew that the whiteflies and aphids produce.

I have had good results combatting whitefly (and to a lesser degree aphids) simply by spraying the underside of the leaves with a solution of one teaspoon liquid castile soap to one quart water. The soap breaks down the insects' protective coating and causes them to drown. The plants can be rinsed off the following day with clean water. You will want to repeat this procedure once a week for a couple of weeks to kill any pupa that survive the initial spraying and grow into adults.

Aphids are a little more resistant to a simple castile soap spray, so I recommend using insecticidal soap on them. These soaps contain salts of fatty acids and are quite safe to use, even within days of harvest. The directions say the soap can be left on, but I wash the leaves off the following day after application just to be safe.

There are some biological controls that work wonderfully. The parasitic wasp *Encarsia formosa* is very effective against whitefly. These tiny wasps are barely visible to the eye. They lay their eggs inside developing whitefly pupa, so one of their young hatches out instead of the whitefly. For aphids, try ladybugs or *Aphidoletes aphidimyza* (see source on page 35 for these).

I fertilize my plants about once a month with fish emulsion when they are outdoors in the summer. In the winter I use Stern's Miracid as *Salvia divinorum* likes acidic soil. Feeding a lot of nitrogen to your plants will attract more problem insects to them, so cut back on fertilizing as part of the strategy to bring pests under control.

lifespan

For all practical purposes, the lifespan of a *Salvia divinorum* plant is about five to six years. The plants get woody as they age, growth slows, and they become more brittle and start to fall apart. If they have been staked and prevented from falling over and rerooting, then it is time to take some cuttings and start again. Cuttings from an old plant will show the same vigor as cuttings from a younger plant.

preparing the leaves

Salvia divinorum leaves should be dried in a food dehydrator on a medium high setting (130-140 degrees). At this temperature, drying will take between one to two hours depending on the size of the leaves. I remove the mid ribs on the large leaves and they never take more than one hour to dry. Drying at lower temperatures causes the leaves to lose their green color and turn brown. The leaves are 90% water, so ten grams of fresh leaves equals one gram of dried material. It takes a lot of fresh leaves to produce one ounce of dried leaves; a gallon size plastic bag stuffed full with leaves weighs only two ounces.

Once dry, I push the leaves through a sieve to powder them, then pack the powder tightly into glass vials and store in the freezer. The potency of salvinorin A will be retained for many years this way. Fresh leaves can be stored in the refrigerator for a few days before losing potency, but be sure to keep them in a plastic bag with a damp paper towel. Freezing fresh leaves does not work, as when thawed they turn into a slimy mess. Leaves can be juiced using a wheat grass juicer and then frozen for long term storage. When thawed, the juice is held in the mouth as is done with the fresh leaves. Dried leaves can be reconstituted by soaking in a small amount of water and then chewed.

Since *Salvia divinorum* is one of the rarest of all plant entheogens, it is my hope that many people will choose to cultivate this plant. It was almost driven into extinction once, so let's work to preserve this valuable plant ally for future generations to enjoy.

Will Beifuss is the author of the *Psychedelic Sourcebook*, a resource guide to businesses of interest to the psychedelic community. Will makes his home in the cloud forests of the Pacific Northwest, and is an avid *Salvia divinorum* grower. His new book entitled *Archetypes and Altered States* is due out later this year.

Salvia divinorum resources

Allies (Formerly ... of the jungle.)
P.O. Box 2422
Sebastopol, CA 95473
$2 Catalog (Deductible from your first order.)

The Basement Shaman
P.O. Box 1255
Elgin, IL 60121
847-695-2447
bshaman@interaccess.com
$2 Catalog

Companion Plants
7247 N. Coolville Ridge Rd.
Athens, OH 45701
614-592-4643
http://www.frognet.net/companion_plants/
$3 Catalog

Entheogenesis
P.O. Box 1220
Winters, CA 95694
$3 Catalog

Horus Botanicals
HCR 82 Box 29
Salem, AR 72576
$3 Catalog

Ho Ti Products
P.O. Box 679
Honaunau, HI 96726
hoti@ilhawaii.net
http://www.ilhawaii.net:80/~hoti

JLF
P.O. Box 184
Elizabethtown, IN 47232
812-379-2508
$2 Catalog

Kava Kauai
6817 Kahuna Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746
800-626-0883
kava@kauaisource.com
http://www.kauaisource.com
Free Catalog

LER (Legendary Ethnobotanical Resources)
16245 SW 304th Street
Leisure City, FL 33033
305-242-0877
info@ethnobotany.com
http://www.ethnobotany.com
$3 Catalog

Logee's Greenhouses
141 North St.
Danielson, CT 06239-1939
860-774-8038
$3 Catalog (Deductible from first order)

Magic
395 Oak Creek, Suite 508
Wheeling, IL 60090
$1 Catalog

P.J.T. Botanicals
P.O. Box 49
Bridgewater, MA 02324
$3 Catalog

Redwood City Seed Co.
P.O. Box 361
Redwood City, CA 94064
415-325-SEED
http://www.batnet.com/rwc-seed/
$1 Catalog

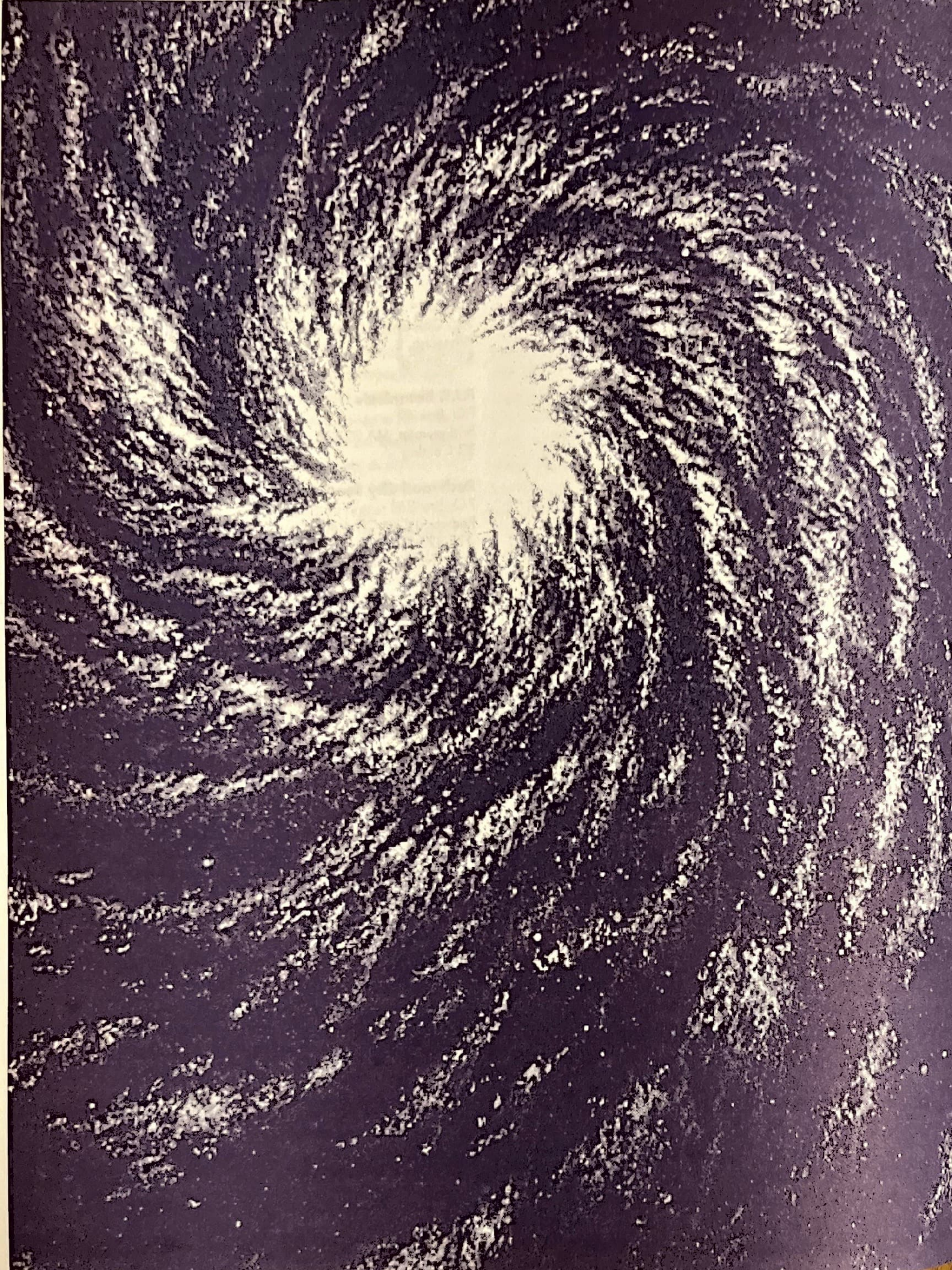
Theatrum Botanicum
P.O. Box 288
Navarro, CA 95463
thebot@pacific.net

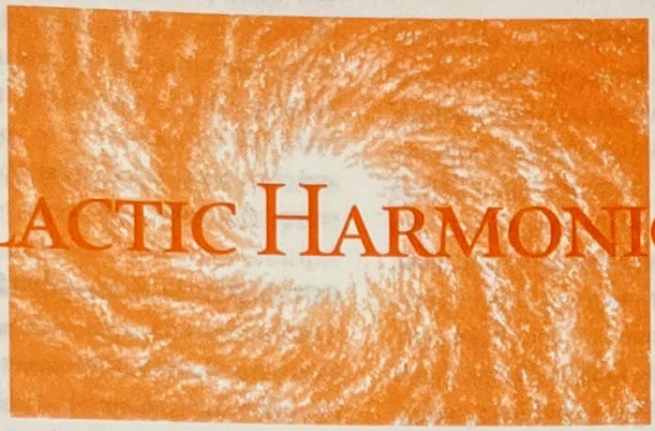
Well-Sweep Herb Farm
317 Mt. Bethel Road
Port Murray, NJ 07865
908-852-5390
$2 Catalog

Biological Controls
Nature's Control
P. O. Box 35
Medford, OR 97501
541-899-8318
$0.50 Catalog
Encarsia formosa (whitefly parasite)
Aphidoletes aphidimyza (aphid predator)
Yellow Sticky Traps (whitefly control)

Author's Note
Logee's Greenhouses and Well-Sweep Herb Farm have the cheapest prices on *Salvia divinorum* plants. Entheogenesis and Ho Ti Products have the cheapest prices on dried *Salvia divinorum* leaves. The Basement Shaman is the only source for fresh *Salvia divinorum* leaves. If you are in the market for dried *Salvia divinorum* leaves, I recommend Kava Kauai, as their product is excellent.

This information was reprinted from the *Psychedelic Sourcebook*, a resource guide to the businesses of the psychedelic community. The *Sourcebook* has listings for books, tapes, spores, botanicals, magazines, organizations, internet sites and more. Order from: Rosetta, Dept. TRP, P.O. Box 4611, Berkeley, CA 94704-0611. $12.95 + $2 S&H. Rosetta catalog included free.





The Galactic Harmonic Primer

by James Kent

Lesson I — Archetypes of Creation

Galactic Harmonics is a grand discipline occupied with the examination of the underlying patterns and themes present in all levels of material existence. From the subatomic to the cosmic, these recurring patterns can be found in everything from particle interaction to social dynamics to the unfolding of the universe itself. When viewed through the magical filters of physics and mathematics, we can begin to see that the universe — at its most basic level — is nothing more than an immense pattern-generating function. We are just one small part of the universal pattern, but each tiny particle of our being mirrors the vast complexities of the entire universe. When we study without, we also study within.

This primer has been compiled to introduce readers to some key universal patterns and some of their primary cross-disciplinary correspondences. By relating key concepts to meditative states, it is my hope that meditation and practice will instill a sense of how integral each of these concepts are to the actual physical process of life. Naturally, we will start at the beginning, but as we move forward each new concept will compliment the last and continue to build until there is no beginning and no end — only patterns and cycles.

This introductory list is far from complete, but when you begin to unravel even the basics of galactic structure, you begin to unravel the deeper mysteries of creation and life itself. Each one of these thoughts can fuel hours of ontological musing, and each one is a good starting place for further meditation and exploration.

zero, the void

Zero is a good place to start because we work with zeroes every day. Zero is nothing. It is the absence of all things. It is empty. Nada. Nil. Zero represents a numerical value (the absence of value), but it also represents the void — the vast still emptiness which existed before all of creation and will probably exist long after the death of our universe. The universal symbol for zero is an empty circle.

Linear time does not exist in the void, nor do events, actions, matter, or space. It is a stark nothingness without self, ego, or awareness. The void is timeless and eternal. It is the blank canvas awaiting inspiration. It is the uncarved block of the *Tao*. It is the uncluttered mind ready to receive knowledge. It is the unfertilized ovum.

Because the void exists outside of material space, it has no corresponding *chakra* or body position. The void can only be experienced preceding birth, following death, or through a 'near death' or 'out of body' experience where the trappings of physical self and ego are temporarily removed.

singularity, the seed

The singularity is an incomprehensibly small point which contains a near infinite amount of densely packed information. The singularity is a mathematical paradox because it is infinitely massive yet infinitely small. Its gravitational field is so dense that it causes space and time to bend, freeze, and reverse around the edges. Singularities are only found in black holes, subatomic nuclei, and in the first few nanoseconds of our early universe. The symbol for singularity is a single dot or one-dimensional point.

Any information entering a singularity instantly collapses under such intense pressure that it becomes encrypted within a mathematical paradox. From our perspective, the singularity is a one-way information valve. Any information entering a singularity is impossible to retrieve. Not even light can escape. Whatever goes in is compressed into 'not-being' and spit across a no-return hole in spacetime. Some theorists believe this information is just locked into the black hole forever; some say it will eventually evaporate away into particle decay. Einstein and Rosen theorized that singularities could even be wormholes to alternate dimensions of reality. Unfortunately, no one will ever know because the compression makes it impossible to survive the journey.

The singularity of the early universe also represents the star seed — a hard-shelled courier of self-replicating, viral information. From this single seed, an entire universe erupted. Because the singularity contains the infinite within the small, it can only begin to grow in a void that is big enough to hold it. This is true with all seeds. Each seed contains vast potential — but a seed can only germinate in very specific conditions.

The seed metaphor also exists in the dimension of pure idea. Any single idea can seed an infinite number of new ideas — but seeds of idea will only germinate in very particular conditions. Like the singularity, the seed of idea seeks a silent, uncluttered place to plant its roots and become fully formed. In many theologies, the initial seed is not a theoretical object, it is simply God's idea to fill the eternal void of loneliness.

The *chakra* which relates to the singularity is located between the navel and the pelvic bone. This point is not only the "essential" center of your being, it is also your center of gravity and the central furnace of your *ki* — the life force which flows through you and animates your body. The body position which corresponds to the seed is a tightly held tuck. Pull your knees up to your chin, roll your face down, and curl up into a ball. When you exhale, collapse and let your energy sink deeper and deeper into your central furnace.

conception & inspiration

Out of all the harmonic constants, conception is possibly the most miraculous of all. Conception is the temporal point where the unreleased potential of the seed enters into the empty void and begins to germinate. This is where the process of creation begins. Conception is the dawn. It is the bliss of new life. It is the birth of new ideas.

The traditional symbol for conception is a spark, flash of light, or the spiritual breath of God being magically imbued into matter. In terms of thought and idea, the spark metaphor for conception is seen in the modern image of a light bulb going off over someone's head. This metaphor can also be seen throughout history in paintings of saints and prophets who have a halo or circle of divine light shining over their heads.

The *chakra* which corresponds to conception is the crown *chakra*. You can locate the crown chakra by drawing a line straight over the top of the head from each ear until you hit a small bump where the plates of your skull join together. It is usually through this point that the spark of conception hits the body. This experience is commonly referred to as 'illumination' or 'enlightenment.' To experience pure conception in its rawest form is to literally 'see the light.' It is peace, clarity of thought, fulfillment, and euphoria all rolled into one.

expansion & exposition

Expansion is the operation which defines growth in the spatial and temporal dimensions of our physical universe. Expansion is best described as constant movement away from a central point in all directions at once. The symbol for Expansion is a circle with arrows or vectors pointing out in all directions from the center. These arrows represent the travel of force through space, and the circle represents the wave of force traveling through time. As time marches on, so expands the circle.

Any kind of explosion or free energy release within a vacuum will result in a smooth, spherical expansion of force in all directions. The distance this force will travel (unless confined or conflicted by another force) is theoretically infinite, and stops only when and if time stops. The first expansion of our universe is, of course, the Big Bang. The scientific best guess as to how the universe was created is that it spontaneously erupted out of a singularity into a great vacuum of space. Our universe is still growing, and we are still riding the expanding wave of the Big Bang. Theoretically, we will continue to expand until we eventually fizzle out or snap back on ourselves like a giant bungee cord.

Expansion is also seen in the causal spread of a single action or event. Each physical action has it's own expansion wave. Simply drop a pebble into a smooth lake to see this principle in action. This may seem like an overly obvious example, but the same pebble, when dropped on hard ground, will still create ripples through the air and through the Earth. Any noise or radiant energy will also travel in a wave away from it's point of origin until it is bound, reflected, or acted on by a conflicting wave. When expanding wave forces overlap, all sorts of interesting interference patterns and harmonic phenomena occur, but those will be discussed in separate lessons.

The chakra for expansion is the heart chakra - located in the center of the chest. To activate expansion, stand or lie down with arms and legs spread to all four directions like a compass. Take in a series of smooth deep breaths in rapid succession, then focus the energy building in your chest to radiate in smooth circles outward from your body. This shimmering orb of energy is sometimes referred to as an aura.

contraction & introspection

Contraction is the eventual reaction to all expansion. Contraction is defined as a collapsing or pushing inward of force towards a central point. The symbol for contraction is a dot with arrows from all directions pointing inward.

When information is being passed from one space into another, the space that is passing information is contracting or collapsing, the space which receives the information is expanding or growing. This is just common sense. The contracting mind pushes information away, the expanding mind absorbs all the information it can. The contracting lungs push air away, the expanding lungs bring new air in. The collapsing universe compresses information out, the expanding universe explodes information in.

Contraction is never comfortable. There is always pain and a sense of loss associated with it. Contraction is often related to introspection and some kind of physical or mental release. The body position relating to contraction is, of course, the fetal position – body hunched over, knees apart, feet together, and hands tucked in towards the chest. The chakra related to contraction is where the stomach muscles intersect around the navel. The spasmodic energy releases from this point control not only labor and birth, but orgasm as well.

duality & balance

All of physical existence is set to an eternal duality. Duality manifests itself in the ongoing struggle between two diametrically opposed forces. These forces are always at odds, yet always seeking balance. There are many symbols for duality, but the most commonly recognized symbol for duality is the Chinese mandala of *yin* and *yang*.

Duality is present in all matter from the tiniest particle to the greatest of galaxies. The two primary dualities which define every interaction in our entire universe are the positive and negative forces of particle electrodynamics (proton and electron) and the constantly shifting transitions between solid matter and radiant energy. These two essential dualities are the elementary basis for all other gross dualities perceived or intrinsic to the system: on/off; +/-; 1/0; light/dark; day/night; good/evil; male/female; sun/moon; heaven/hell; God/Satan; pain/pleasure; etc. The nature of these gross dualities varies depending on the specific cultural contexts they are found in, but the light/dark overtones are ubiquitous, and they are always destined to be pitted against one another.

There are some who would say that duality is a bad thing, and that it should be somehow overcome. However, even though the primal dualistic forces are eternally at odds, they are also eternally drawn to one another. In fact, the subtle dynamics between these two forces is what makes time, space, perception, and life itself possible. Without duality there would be no particle attraction or interaction – only timeless static hegemony.

Themes relating to duality of self can be found in just about every branch of psychology known. There is ego and superego; conscious mind and

continued on page 64 ▶

Neuro Inversion

meditations on externalizing the mind

by Gordon Hogenson

The following is an exercise in realizing and manipulating the illusory character of existence. Since it emphasizes the brain's role in constructing reality and provides an inverted perspective of inner and outer space, the practice is called neuro-inversion. This article provides a step by step approach towards the realization that what you experience as reality is no more than a construct in your brain. Once you achieve this state of consciousness, you can work from deep within your brain to manipulate your perception of reality, and – in a relativistic sense – reality itself.

activating the flow

The first step in this neural exercise is the running of energy — also called *prana* or *chi* — along the meridians of the body. You should get in a comfortable, meditative posture, close your eyes, and begin taking deep, even breaths. As you do this, imagine that you are also breathing in energy, and that this energy is cycling through your body and filling you full of force. Sweeping and energetic music — like Bach's *Organ Concerto in D minor* — will keep your thoughts from drifting and aid in the building of energy.

Once you feel your body being consumed by the energy, visualize waves of energy rushing up through your body and swelling into a ball around your palms and fingertips. As you visualize this, you will begin to feel a tingling along the meridians in your arms and hands. As the energy in your hands grows, you will find that your fingers are becoming more sensitive and nimble, and that you are able to make fluid gestures with your hands.

> The scaffolding of the neurons is called the cytoskeleton, and it gives the neuron its characteristic shape. The 'bones' of the cytoskeleton are the microtubules, microfilaments and neurofilaments. By drawing an analogy with a scaffolding, we do not mean that the cytoskeleton is static. On the contrary, elements of the cytoskeleton are dynamically regulated and are very likely in continual motion. It is quite likely that the neurons inside your head are probably squirming around even as you read this sentence.
>
> — from the textbook *Neuroscience* edited by Bear, Connors and Paradiso, 1996

Try moving your hands along with the music — amplifying and shaping the energy as if you were playing the music. Try to hit every note by feeling it somewhere in your fingers. As you do this, you will be activating a rhythmic flow of vibrations through your body. Hand movements and motor skills take up large parts of the brain, and when you energize your hands, you are also stimulating a large portion of your brain.

When your hands are successfully energized, you should feel

as if you are playing the muscle fibers of your arms and hands like keys on a vast multilayered piano. When the muscles are fully relaxed, *prana* can flow through palms and out of the fingertips. This is the signpost that you are nearing a breakthrough experience. If you amplify the flow of *prana*, it will actually feel as if you can shoot vibrating threads of energy right out of your hands. If you get the urge to try this, by all means shoot away.

activating vision

Once your hands begin flowing with *pranic* energy, you can begin mapping the fluid movements back onto the visual system. This exercise is best performed while staring at a blank wall, either in complete darkness or with only a candle for light. Begin by letting the hard lines of "solid" reality drop out of focus. Focus instead on the movement of your hands. Notice how each movement throws ripples of energy into the space around you. These ripples are not only affecting the molecules of air around you, they are also affecting the subtle patterns "beneath" the solid surface of reality. As the fluid energy begins to ripple, you may also observe a visual noise of colorful, randomized shimmering that appears in thin air.

This visual noise is more than just random speckles in empty space, it is actually a fluid substance which permeates you, the empty space around you, and all of material existence. Shadows cast through this noise have a three-dimensional structure, and light reflections of these shadows appear as three-dimensional energy clouds, or ghosts. As an example of this phenomenon, consider the visual spokes seen around a star or distant street lamp. Instead of seeing the light as a solid orb of energy on a black field, try reversing your perception to perceive the darkness as physical substance which has gaps or wormholes that allow the light to shine through to your eye.

I believe that there is some kind of close association between this visual noise and phosphenes — those colorful lights and patterns seen when you apply pressure to your closed eyeballs. Phosphenes are like quick snapshots of visual noise within the eyes, but the visual noise itself remains both within and outside of the body. It is possible to gain conscious control over the imagery in the phosphenes using the methods detailed here.

the unity of vision and consciousness

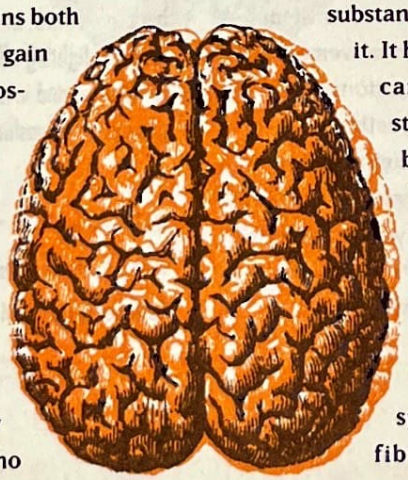
As you become able to perceive ripples in the visual noise, energize the muscles behind your eyes and open them wide. As you do so, imagine that you are also opening your brain. It may help to imagine that your head actually rolls open from the eyelids, or that you have no head. Instead, the room you are sitting in suddenly becomes your head, and the visual fluid in the room is actually part of your brain.

Begin exploring this place by focusing the mind on particular points in space and trying to locate those points in your brain. Extend your consciousness into each corner of the room. Use sound to focus your energy towards certain areas of the room and "tune" the muscles of your head and face. The vibrations from within your body can be externalized and used to make the visual fluid dance in the space around you. Use the concept of feedback between your brain and the visual fluid to amplify and fine tune particularly powerful wavelengths. With practice, you can gain a degree of control over the flow of this translucent substance. Ultimately you will attain a state where the fluid can be self-organized into densely packed images and manipulated as easily as your muscles.

As you perceive ripples in the visual noise, energize your eyes and open them wide. As you open them, imagine that you are opening you brain as well...

shadow and substance

This translucent substance is the very same *prana* that you were feeling and manipulating with the hands earlier. Realizing this is like bumping into your own shadow and seeing that it has a kind of physicality. Extend your sense of touch out into the space around you. Feel the visual substance with your hands. Play with it. It has heat, tensile strength, and can be pushed, pulled, and strung out. Try moving it thread by thread. This can be done, but it takes very refined control over the individual muscle fibers. Exercises like *Tai Chi* are good for honing this motor control. There is a definite one-to-one correspondence between muscle fiber and visual thread. You

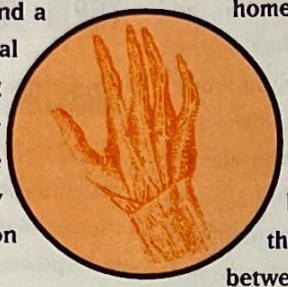


accomplish the neuro-inversion when you can extend all nerve sensations out into the threads. That is, instead of feeling through your hands, you feel through the threads themselves.

What you will have achieved through this meditation is an awareness that you are completely enclosed in a material substance that makes up your perceived world. When you feel anything through your skin — texture, heat, air resistance — you are actually feeling this substance. See Carlos Castaneda's *A Separate Reality* for further discussions on these threads.

thought joins the dance

In this state, the physical manifestation of thought is felt and seen clearly. Each thought involves a movement in the body and a corresponding movement of the visual threads. You cannot think anything without also feeling the motion associated with it. Of course this is true in all states of consciousness, it is only more obvious when this meditation is practiced.



This state provides an excellent way to watch the inter-operation of mind and body. Body movement and position will affect thought and idea. You can feel the neural mind "grasping" with every turn and twist. You can "really stretch it," have "a sinking feeling," and even catch a "sneaking suspicion" as it skulks about. You may even experience somatosensory puns in everyday words. Smiling, looking up, and raising your hands into the air will cause you to instantly feel joy. Hunching over and sagging the muscles of the body will stimulate sadness. Watching your own movements can lead to a deep understanding of the mental states you attach to them.

Practice various postures and movements and really pay attention to the emotions they tune into. Explore the effect of repeating a word or phrase. Observe which thoughts move you deeper into uncomfortable territory, and which move you most towards joy. If you practice stilling the body for long periods of time, you will experience profound peace and silence.

the brain is the universe

It will probably be obvious at this point that you are inside the brain. The reality you are experiencing is in the brain. You are no longer experiencing an illusion of external reality, you are experiencing the brain itself. Because this mental state is so alien to the normal way of perceiving, you will encounter barriers. These are responses that operate to prevent you from unraveling reality any further, and are composed of an intimate connection between instinct and emotion. These uncomfortable responses are usually variants of the panic and fear reaction that occur when confronting the unknown. If it does feel that you have literally turned your brain inside out, or otherwise unraveled it, simply feeling your head will confirm that your brain is still intact. If you find yourself starting to panic, simply breathe deeply and move toward the familiar. Do not feel trapped inside your brain — your brain is your home. Play in it!

beyond the brain — great space

The space which exists outside of your visual field is not just a dark unknown. Sound, imagined space, body feelings, and thought itself all contribute to the sensation of this space. There is no difference between the fibers of visual space and the fibers that move with every sound and thought. When you realize this, you realize that there is no definite boundary which dividing your thoughts from the rest of reality. There is potential here for realizing the interconnectedness of all things, seeing the relationship between mind and matter, and transcending the illusions of physicality. This is rather like holding the world in one's hands as if it were a huge bubble. Tarthang Tulku, in his excellent work *Time, Space, and Knowledge*, refers to this apparent higher dimension as Great Space. Readers who wish to explore these experiences further are referred to his book.

Gorden Hogenson is a mad scientists and student of natural philosophy, currently pursuing a Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry at the University of Washington. He is currently fighting off the grip of an irrational passion to "figure it all out" as soon as possible, and invites anyone who already has figured it out to contact him at ghogenso@u.washington.edu.

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Because this mental state is so alien to the normal way of perceiving, you will encounter barriers. These are responses that operate to prevent you from unravelling reality any further...

occult genetic code

THE GREAT PRIMORDIAL LANGUAGE REDISCOVERED

by Steve Krakowski

Throughout recorded history there have been many myths of a great primordial language which was once shared by all beings. This language was more than just grammar or syntax, it was the essential structure of all existence – the *ursprache* code that God used to create the universe, the world, and life itself. Some might argue that this is the pure language of science – a language of numbers and formulas to which the universe constrains itself. Others would say that this is a language of poetry and metaphor, an ancient cant which contains the power of both creation and destruction. Either way, this mythical language has been woven into our collective psyches since the dawn of time – and the search to unravel it has long been a "Holy Grail" for both scholars and mystics alike.

For at least 2000 years, Hebrew numerologists and students of the Qabala have been searching the Old Testament for God's grand code. The following verse of the Bible is especially interesting to students of the Qabala, since it is the only verse which contains all twenty-two Hebrew letters and their five final forms.

> Zephaniah 3:8 "Therefore wait ye for Me, saith the Lord, until that day that I rise up to the prey; for My determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them Mine indignation, even all My fierce anger; for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy."

The verse directly following this prophesy then goes on to speak of a "pure language" which will allow all of humanity to serve Yahweh with one speech.

> Zephaniah 3:9 "For then will I turn to the peoples a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one consent."

Interestingly, these two verses are a complete reversal of the events described in Genesis 11:1-9; the story of the tower of Babel. It is generally assumed that the pure language mentioned in Zephaniah 3:9 is Hebrew, but what are the odds that Hebrew will eventually become the one common language spoken by all people? Perhaps Zephaniah is prophesying something more than a mere spoken or written language, but the pure language of creation that we already share.

Scientists often use language as a metaphor when describing the structures and processes of DNA replication and cell biology. Scientists refer to nucleotides and amino acids (the basic chemical components of life) as "alphabets"; and the larger chemical structures made of genetic alphabets are

called "words" or "genetic sentences." The process of creating messenger RNA is called "transcription" and the process of turning "messenger" RNA into proteins is termed "translation." To science, DNA *is* the essential language spoken by all living things. By unlocking the intricate mysteries of DNA, scientists will soon have the godlike powers to create new life from scratch. DNA is the code for life, and that code replicates itself into everything we are.

The oldest book in the Hebrew occult tradition is the *Sefer Yetzirah* or "Book of Creation." It describes, in a magical way, how Yahweh created the universe and all living things using the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. It is said that God molded the letters as bits of clay into parallel and complementary strings – much like the lattices of DNA. The text goes on to say that those who learn this creation magic can also create living things – like golems and small animals. This sounds very much like a description of genetic engineering.

Following this genetic language metaphor a little further, it is interesting to note that the 64 unique codons of the DNA "alphabet" are always found in groups which code for 22 specific genetic "letters." Each one of these genetic letters codes for a specific amino acid or a start/stop punctuation message in the chain. Since the Hebrew alphabet also has 22 letters – some which contain full stops and punctuation – I decided to see if I could find a meaningful isomorphism between the chemical language of life and the written language of one of Earth's oldest cultures.

divining the isomorphism

In *Gödel, Escher, Bach*, Douglas R. Hofstadter defines an isomorphism as "an information preserving transformation." His deeper definition is: "The word 'isomorphism' applies when two complex structures can be mapped onto each other, in such a way that to each part of one structure there is a corresponding part in the other structure, where 'corresponding' means that the two parts play similar roles in their respective structures." In trying to find an isomorphism between Hebrew and DNA structuring, I decided to start by studying the isomorphisms already noticed between DNA and the ancient Chinese system of divination, the *I Ching*. In recent years, there have been many books which successfully establish very detailed isomorphic maps between the 64 hexagrams (or *kua*) of the *I Ching* and the 64 codons which compose the complete genetic code. (see references on page 49)

According to Hofstadter an isomorphism has at least two levels: the "lower level" is a mapping between physical structures and mechanics in the two systems; and the "higher level" is where deeper mapping of meaning either emerges or is extracted. On the lower level of the DNA/*I Ching* isomorphism, we find a few similarities right off the top. The 64 *kua* of the *I Ching* are constructed by using four emblematic symbols: Old Yang, Young Yang, Old Yin, and Young Yin. DNA codons are also made up of four essential nucleic acids: Adenine, Guanine, Cystosine, and Uracil. When comparing them, they can be logically grouped into the following order:

Old Yang (9)	Old Yin (6)	Young Yang (7)	Young Yin (8)
⚊	⚋	⚊	⚋
Adenine Purine	Uracil Pyrimidine	Guanine Purine	Cytosine Pyrimidine

Adenine is the main component of adenosine triphosphate, the chemical which generates the energy for cellular metabolism, and the purines have a common atomic structure based on 9 atoms. I assigned Old *Yang* to Adenine because Old *Yang*'s "ritual number" is 9 and *yang* represents energy in the *I Ching* (*yin* represents matter). The other 3 emblem/nucleotide assignments follow logically because of similar correspondences in their natures (At my web site you can examine the entire line of reasoning which leads to these particular mappings, but in this article I can only give you the highlights). Using this particular table, you can assign any hexagram of the *I Ching* to its own unique DNA codon by substituting 9 for Adenine (A), 6 for Uracil (U), 7 for Guanine (G), and 8 for Cystosine (C).

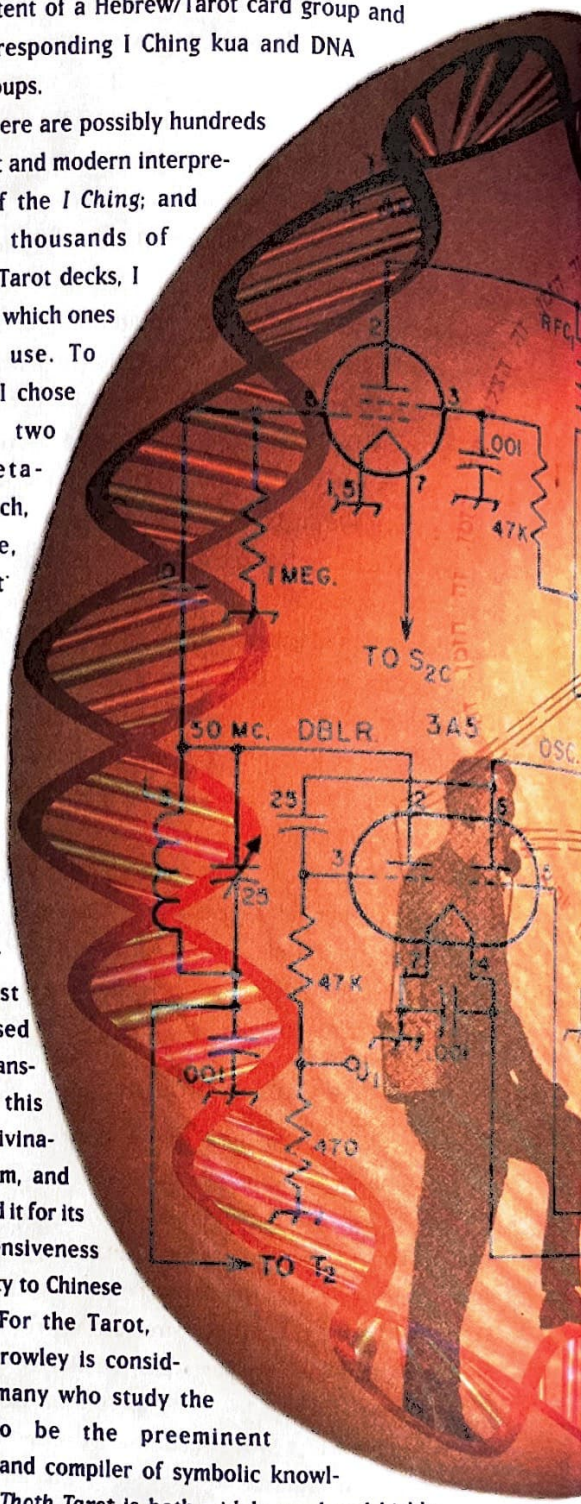
Now that we've created a structural mapping between DNA and the *I Ching*, we can stretch the isomorphism to another level. The 64 codons of DNA form groups of groups which code for 22 separate amino acid or punctuation groups. The 22 codon groups of the genetic code can be broken down into 3 classes: 3 codons code for punctuation (Start or Stop); 7 codon groups code

for hydrophobic amino acids; 12 codon groups code for hydrophilic amino acids. Amazingly, assigning Hebrew letters to the codon groups was made quite easy by the coincidence that in the *Sefer Yetzirah*, the 22 Hebrew letters are also broken down into 3 classes: 3 letters are "mothers"; 7 letters are "doubles"; 12 letters are "simples".

Suddenly the isomorphism was clear. I was constrained in making my letter to amino acid assignments by staying within the corresponding groups of 3, 7, and 12. In other words, if I wanted to match one of the 7 double letters of the Hebrew alphabet to a corresponding DNA codon group, I could only look at the 7 codon groups which code for the 7 hydrophobic amino acids. Yet from which of these 7 should I chose? Since the lower level structural isomorphism between the Hebrew alphabet and codon groups has led us this far, I thought it might be helpful to start looking for a higher level correspondence to provide the symbolic meaning necessary to make the final assignments between the Hebrew letters and the codon group/*kua* assignments.

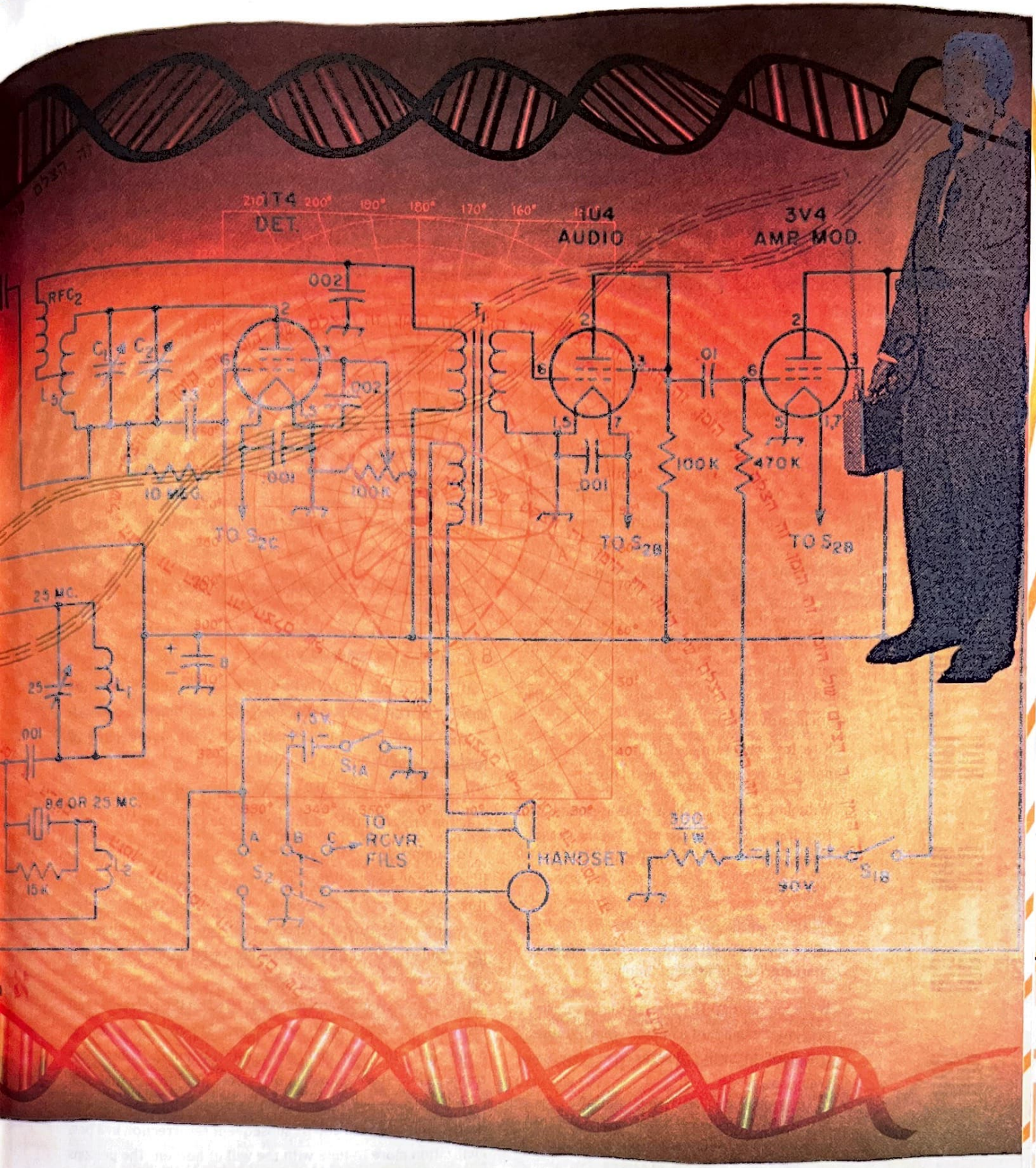
Since there is insufficient symbolic content assigned to the Hebrew letters all by themselves, it is difficult to map a deeper meaning onto the complex messages of the 64 *kua* of the *I Ching*. However, the 22 major arcana cards of the divination system known as the Tarot have had Hebrew letters assigned to them since at least the late 19th century. By matching the Tarot card which corresponds with a specific Hebrew letter to the 7 DNA codons and corresponding *I Ching kua*, I hypothesized that I could create a meaning isomorphic bridge between symbolic concepts in both the *I Ching* and the Tarot through the filter of genetic code.

In this isomorphic occult translation I have devised, the 22 trumps of the Tarot perform roughly the same function as transfer RNA does within the replication of a cell – it helps to translate raw data into a form that can be interpreted, processed, and replicated. Each tRNA molecule contains an amino acid at one end and an anticodon at the other end. Each major arcana card of the Tarot has a Hebrew letter at one end and a set of symbols, images, and concepts at the other. But for there to be a true isomorphism between the systems we are comparing, there would need to be a higher level mapping of meaning between the symbolic content of a Hebrew/Tarot card group and their corresponding I Ching kua and DNA codon groups.



Since there are possibly hundreds of ancient and modern interpretations of the *I Ching*; and literally thousands of different Tarot decks, I pondered which ones I should use. To simplify, I chose those two interpretations which, I believe, represent the best and most widely studied in their field. The Wilhelm/Baynes *I Ching* is probably the most widely used English translation of this ancient divination system, and critics laud it for its comprehensiveness and fidelity to Chinese thought. For the Tarot, Aleister Crowley is considered by many who study the occult to be the preeminent authority and compiler of symbolic knowledge. His *Thoth Tarot* is both widely used and highly regarded. In addition, Crowley also wrote his own interpretation of the *I Ching*; and so it was reasonable to include his thoughts in my comparison of both divination systems.

Amazingly, the task of content comparison was not as difficult as I first thought it would be. In fact, the correspondences fairly fell into place! I now had a Hebrew letter assignment for every one of the 64 codons, 20 amino acids, and 2 termination codon



was, part for part, isomorphic with the universal genetic code. I called it the "Occult Genetic Code". If an isomorphism is an information preserving transformation, then what information served? Do the messenger RNA strands carry a message written in ancient Hebrew or a Proto-Canaanite precursor of Hebrew?

I don't have space enough to give you a content comparison for all of the Tarot/*I Ching* correspondences I found through the occult genetic code, so one example will have to suffice. But be aware that when viewed through the filter of genetic transcription, the similarity of content in the sample below is repeated for the other 21 letter groups in the occult genetic code.

Pe, the tower

The card called "The Tower" has the "double" letter *Pe* assigned to it. Therefore, when trying to make a content match, I am restrained to look among the 7 *kua*/codon groups which correspond to the hydrophobic amino acids. Among those codon groups is one which contains the following *kua*/codons which code for the amino acid leucine.

CUC = 868 = *kua* 3 "Difficulty in the Beginning"
UUA = 667 = *kua* 20 "Contemplation (View)"
UUG = 667 = *kua* 23 "Splitting Apart"
CUU = 866 = *kua* 24 "Return (The Turning Point)"
CUG = 867 = *kua* 27 "The Corners of the Mouth"
CUA = 869 = *kua* 42 "Increase"

We will first examine the *kua* to see if they contain any imagery found in The Tower, and later we will compare the conceptual content to determine if the symbols stand for or illustrate the same set of concepts. The Tower is a tall, strong human-made edifice, but its roof is shattered by lightning and its foundation is assaulted by the mouth of Dis (a god of chaos). Weakened by attacks from both sides, it splits apart and falls into ruins. Human figures are seen falling. Its Hebrew letter is *Pe*; which coincidently means "a mouth".

Now let's check to see if there is any overlapping Tower imagery in the *I Ching*:

Wilhelm: (*kua* 3) ... The situation points to teeming, chaotic profusion; ... But the chaos clears up. A thunderstorm brings release from tension, ...

Wilhelm: (*kua* 20) The hexagram can be understood as picturing a type of tower characteristic of ancient China.

Wilhelm: (*kua* 23) The lines of the hexagram present the image of a house,... and because the roof is being shattered the house collapses.

Wilhelm: (*kua* 27) This hexagram is a picture of an open mouth; ...

So, with just these four *kua*, we have all of the salient images and symbols incorporated in the Tarot card The Tower. We now turn our attention to the concepts associated with these symbols. According to Crowley, The Tower represents ruin, destruction, danger, and sudden death.

Kua 23, The sequence: Splitting apart means ruin.

Crowley: (*I Ching*, *kua* 23) "Overthrow" Falling; overturning; ... Destroy, ... the small man digs his grave.

Crowley names *kua* 3 "Danger and Obscurity".

What is the meaning of all this danger, destruction and ruin? What significance can this imagery have for an individual or for a society?

Crowley: Breakdown the fortress of thine individual self, that the truth may spring free from the ruins.

Wilhelm: (*kua* 23) The thought, here taken together with that in the next hexagram (24), shows the connection between decay and resurrection.

Wilhelm: (*kua* 24) ... the hexagram counsels turning away from the confusion of external things, turning back to one's inner light.

Kua 24, Appended judgements: Return leads to self-knowledge.

Crowley: (*I Ching*, *kua* 24) Coming back; thou'rt free to come and go.

Crowley: ... escape from prison.

All of *kua* 20, in Wilhelm's translation, deals with the viewing or contemplation of one's life and times. It counsels self-knowledge, self-examination and the overcoming of naive egotism.

Crowley: (*I Ching*, *kua* 20) Consider thy life's course, lest action err, and criticize thy soul's true character.

To summarize, both systems use the same imagery to illustrate the same set of concepts; i.e. a chaotic storm splitting apart a large human-made edifice. This symbolizes the necessity to destroy the structure of ego in preparation for the reconstruction of a new broader-based conception of self suited to the ever-changing times.

These same symbols and concepts used on the personal level also apply to social and historical levels. The "tower syndrome" always leads to the death of naive egotism and the subsequent resurrection, from its ruins, of a more fully functional self. Crowley also interprets this card as symbolizing the death or destruction of an era and its subsequent resurrection in a new civilization more in tune with the will of heaven. The persons who have experienced their own "tower syndrome" and learned the necessary lessons will be in a position to understand and deal with, in an appropriate way, the simultaneous dissolution of one world view and its replacement with a new and more functional world view. The *kua* give advice for ameliorating the worst effects of such a transition.

3 ䷂
20 ䷓
23 ䷖
24 ䷗
27 ䷚
42 ䷩

Wilhelm: (*kua* 42) To rule truly is to serve. This conception also expresses the fundamental idea on which the book of changes is based.

Crowley: (*I Ching*, *kua* 42) Increase; now's no time to sit and shiver; but to move on, even to cross the river. ... Let all men share in thine improved estate! By soul's disorders realms disintegrate.

It is widely accepted by students of the Tarot that the story of "The Tower" is based on the biblical tower of Babel. The mouth symbol represents the confusion of languages that was a deity's response to human arrogance. In the biblical story, Yahweh undoes the work of an ambitious civilization in a fit of jealousy and fear. Then, to keep the advancing society from reorganizing against him, he confounds their common language and scatters the peoples to the far corners of the earth.

Unlike biblical scholars, the philosophers of the *I Ching* didn't require a vengeful deity to understand why prosperous peoples got punished. They understood, from their observations of the cycles of nature, that times of relative abundance are invariably followed by times of relative scarcity; and so they warned those in positions of authority to prepare for this eventuality. If the leadership does not heed this advice, the punishment is swift and all encompassing. The fall from the heights of prosperity can wipe out generations of progress and compel all concerned to start again.

Kua 42, "Increase," marks the beginning of decline. To soften the worst effects of the time to come one should work on broadening the base of participation in the relative abundance occurring in the time of increase. To do otherwise leads to the "tower syndrome" for the entire society. To continue the material growth of society for the benefit of only those at the top of the economic and social pyramid (and at the expense of those composing its base) is to persist in a process which will bring inevitable and irrevocable destruction to that society. With the powers now available to us, this destruction (fire is often the agent predicted) will, with high probability, end the human experiment on this planet.

The Hebrew name Zephaniah means "God has hidden (something)." If that something was knowledge of the genetic code, and that knowledge was secreted away within the occult Qabala ("hidden tradition") of Earth's ancient cultures; then its rediscovery at this time may be the fulfillment of a portion of Zephaniah's prophecy. If so, what comes next?

If you study all 22 of the trot/*kua* comparisons you will see that the content of the two divination systems is identical; and that the isomorphism between the two systems manifests only when the 64 *kua* of the *I Ching* and the 22 major arcana of the Tarot are arranged in the same way as the 64 codons and 22 amino acid and punctuation codons are arranged in the

genetic code. This is too much coincidence for me; and the only conclusion I can draw from its existence is that it is somehow intentional. The occult genetic code is a meta-message, a pointer to the existence of a genuine message from its designers within the encyclopedic text called the human genome. Do we have the courage to find and decipher it?

Steve Krakowski is a management sciences consultant and computer programmer currently working in the security field. He is a self-styled guerrilla ontologist who plays seriously with the ancient traditions. You can find out more about the Occult Genetic Code at: http://ddi.digital.net/~krakowss/index.htm.

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Illustration by a.c.cha

RESONANT FREQUENCIES AND THE HUMAN BRAIN

by Ronald Turmel

One of the great revelations of 20th century science is that all existence can be broken down into simple wave functions. Every photon, energy emission, and elementary particle rings with its own unique wave signature. When we see a color, we are actually seeing a distinct frequency of visible light. When we hear a sound, our eardrums are actually being vibrated by subtle waves in the air molecules around us. Even the neurochemical processes of human consciousness – our very thoughts – ring with their own distinct wave patterns.

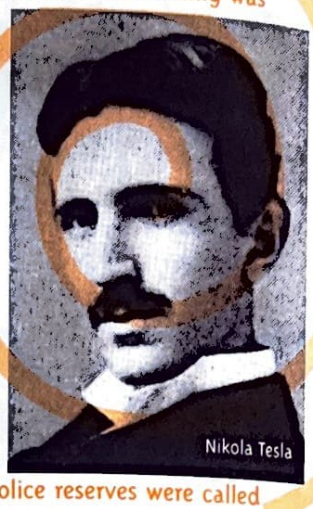
By studying the way that waves interact with other waves, researchers have found that even low-powered oscillations can have enormous effects on standing waves, physical structures, and even the human brain. The principle which describes this particular wavelength interaction is known as *resonance.*

When you resonate with something, you are emitting a wave signature which is "in sync" with it. By applying a constant resonant frequency to a standing wave, you can intensify, reinforce, and prolong the standing frequency of that wave. Researchers posit that by applying these concepts of resonance to waves emitted by the brain, it is possible to induce altered brain states. These current methods of "brainwave entrainment" are based on discoveries made by the 19th century inventor Nikola Tesla – the electrical pioneer who developed the alternating current system of electricity that is currently in use all over the world.

Tesla first realized the massive potential of resonant waves in 1898 when he performed a simple experiment with an electromechanical oscillator the size of an alarm clock. He attached the device to an iron pillar that ran down through the center of his lab into the foundation of his building. His plan was to let it simply tap away until he could produce a significant vibration in the pillar. However, Tesla was unaware that the vibrations from the oscillator were being conducted through the iron pillar down into the substructure of the city. Just as earthquakes are normally the strongest at a short distance from their epicenter, nearby buildings shook and windows shattered while Tesla's lab remained unaffected. Without rapid police intervention, Tesla may have let the oscillator run all night as buildings crumbled around him.

In a later experiment using the same principle, Tesla clamped an oscillator to one of the exposed ground floor beams of a half built ten-story steel building. As Tesla told reporters later that day:

> "In a few minutes, I could feel the beam trembling. Gradually the trembling increased in intensity and extended throughout the whole great mass of steel. Finally, the structure began to creak and weave, and the steel workers came to the ground panic-stricken, believing that there had been an earthquake. Rumors spread that the building was about to fall, and the police reserves were called out. Before anything serious happened, I took off the vibrator, put it in my pocket, and went away. But if I had kept on ten minutes more, I could have laid that building flat in the street. And, with the same vibrator, I could drop the Brooklyn Bridge in less than an hour."


Nikola Tesla

The principle cannot fail, Tesla would say. He understood that a steady frequency of tiny ripples would eventualy create enormous waves.

"The principle cannot fail," Tesla would say. He understood that a steady frequency of tiny waves would eventually create enormous ripples if they were timed just right. What Tesla demonstrated was a principle of resonance known as *entrainment* – the ability of a frequency to cause a less powerful frequency to fall into rhythm simply by placing the two frequency emitters in close proximity. In other words, if you take an electrical oscillator with a power rating of 10 watts that is oscillating at a frequency of 1000 cycles per second (cps), and place it next to an oscillator with a power rating of 1000 watts vibrating at a frequency of 5000 cps, eventually the slower oscillator will be entrained to vibrate at 5000 cps because of the more powerful electromagnetic field created by the 1000 watt oscillator.

Monroe's big discovery

Recent research regarding the mind-altering possibilities of Tesla's entrainment principle have been undertaken by Robert Monroe, the founder of The Monroe Institute in Faber, Virginia. A student of engineering and human physiology, Monroe's interest in human consciousness began in 1956 when he set up a small research and development program in his

New York based radio company. The research was initially designed to determine the feasibility of learning during sleep, but in 1958, an astonishing result emerged.

By experimenting with the effects of sonic frequencies on the brain, Monroe successfully isolated a little-known state of awareness which was totally separated from the physical body. The research team called it an 'Out-of-Body Experience' or OBE – a term which has since become a generic description for many unexplainable mind states. The sonic principle he was using was already known to electronic engineers as 'binaural beat frequency modulation – a key concept used in all radio receivers today. However, it was Monroe who took this idea from the field of radio-electronics and applied it to bioelectronics. He called his discovery Hemispherical Synchronization, or HemiSync™ for short.

To achieve these novel mind-states, Monroe recorded two channels of audio data using a stereo tape recorder. On one channel he recorded a frequency of 200 cps, and on the other channel he recorded a frequency of 208 cps. When he played the recording back through a pair of stereo headphones, what Monroe discovered was that while one ear heard the 200 cps tone, and the other ear heard the 208 tone, the brain interpreted the tones as an eight cps frequency, and began to entrain itself to that frequency. In other words, the brain could only distinguish the eight cps difference, and this frequency was powerful enough to entrain brainwaves.

the neural radio

Normally, the two hemispheres of the brain vibrate at different frequencies, but Monroe discovered that they could be easily synchronized. He also found that when both hemispheres were entrained to vibrate right around eight cps, creativity, intuition, and a tendency towards extrasensory perception all increased dramatically.

Research has shown that the human brain operates at a wide range of frequencies, but generally stays in four major levels of awareness known as beta (13 to 30 cps), alpha (8 to 12 cps), theta (5 to 7 cps), and delta (1 to 4 cps). The highest level is beta, and in this state the brain is active and very awake. This state is usually associated with intellectual thought and verbal expression. When you are talking up a storm, your brain is vibrating between 13 and 30 cps.

The alpha level is the next state down, and it

Shareware for your mind

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Cool Edit '96 is a program that lets you edit music and construct simple dual wave binaural beat frequencies for your own experimentation. The following instructions will walk you through the process of creating your own binaural beat frequencies.

After launching *Cool Edit '96*, simply click the **generate** pull down menu and select the **tone** function. Afterwards, select the **stereo** mode. Next, you will be asked to input a frequency. For example you may input 200 hertz (cps). Be sure that all **modulation factors** are set to **zero**. You want a pure frequency and nothing more. Click on **ok** and you will create two stereo waveforms at a frequency of 200 cps. Next, click on one of the waves to select it, and go to the **edit** function on the menu bar and delete it. Input a new frequency of 208 cps the same way you did when you created the first set of waves. You now have a dual frequency waveform composed of two stereo waves, one resonating at 200 cps and the other at 208 cps. Slip on a pair of headphones and listen to the sound. Be sure to place the waveform into the **loop** mode so it will run continuously. After a while, your brain will respond to the eight cycle frequency, which is the binaural beat frequency difference of 208 and 200.

There are different ways to experiment using *Cool Edit '96*. The best way to record mind-altering frequencies is to superimpose them on a background of brown or pink noise – which is possible with *Cool Edit*. Adjust you binaural frequencies so that you can barely hear them above the background noise, then let the track play as you slip into quiet meditation.Remember to set the **loop** mode **on**, or your frequency won't last long.

A trial version of *Cool Edit '96* is available for download at the Syntrillium Software site (http://www.syntrillium.com/10/index.htm).

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The hypnagogic state is that twilight-zone of consciousness on the border between being awake and being asleep...

is associated with a much more relaxed, calm, and creative waking state. A nice alpha level can be achieved with a simple meditation of slowing your breathing. As your breathing slows, other body functions including your brain frequencies will begin to relax and slow down. When you are completely relaxed – but not yet asleep – your brain hums at around 8 to 12 cycles per second. 8 or 9 cps is considered a very creative state, marked with contemplative thought and increased intuition.

Moving down the awareness scale we arrive at the theta frequencies, and a very interesting set of frequencies they are. This 5 to 7 cps range is where dreams, deep hypnosis, ESP, out-of-body projections, channeling, and other odd mind phenomena start to pop up. Somewhere in this range lies what is called the hypnagogic state – that twilight-zone of consciousness on the border between being awake and being asleep. This is grey area where conscious and subconscious start to overlap. Most of us only get quick, half-remembered glimpses into this realm as we are going to sleep or waking up. However, with Monroe's techniques of brain entrainment, this theta state can be sonically induced – allowing the entrainee to have extended periods of theta exploration.

The last level of brainwave activity is the delta range, and these frequencies are usually only associated with deep, dreamless sleep.

entrain your brain

For those of you who would like to experiment with binaural beat entrainment, you can request a catalog of tapes from the Monroe Institute at the address following this article. Over twenty years of electronic research has enabled the Institute to design hundreds of binaural beat tapes containing as many as a dozen frequencies layered over one another.

For the computer-savvy among you, there are also ways to experiment with binaural beat entrainment using a home computer. All you need is a sound card, a modem, and a pair of stereo headphones.

If you have Internet access, you can try downloading audio files of binaural beat frequencies from either *Brown Feather's Hideaway* (www.mindspring.com/~bfeather/sounds.htm) or *Brainwave* (www.netpressco.com/comm/brain) web sites. Both of these sites contain

binaural beat frequencies for downloading. The frequencies are denoted by their focus number, such as F1 (focus one), all the way up to F26 (Focus 26). These are designations given by the Monroe Institute to denote the different levels of effects attained by the use of their tapes. Please be aware that the audio files found at this site are simple dual stereo frequencies such as 200 cps and 208 cps, and are not of the same quality as the actual Monroe tapes. For those of you who wish to construct your own multilayered frequencies, there are several programs available for downloading on the net (see sidebar on page 53).

For those of you who like to go way out there, you can also try experimenting with a technique called Harmonic Resonance. This involves the entrainment of your brain to resonate with the frequency of any planet in the solar system, even the Sun. More information on this planetary resonance can be found at the *Brainwave* web site mentioned above, or you could check out a book called *Cosmic Octave* by Hans Cousto. He is widely regarded as the pioneer of this particular field.

Well boys and girls, there you have it. Thanks to Monroe, the simple principles of resonance and entrainment can now be used to alter your consciousness. Of course, these principles can also be applied to anything which emits a distinct wave frequency – which is just about everything there is! Science has yet to top out on the ingenious application of these concepts, and there's no reason why you too can't spend endless hours of fun messing around with your brain.

Ron Turmel is a computer consultant. He is currently living in Baltimore MD, but will soon be moving back to his home state of California. He may be reached via e-mail at rturmel@dark.net.

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IN MEMORY... DM TURNER

On New Years Eve, 1996, the noted author and lay-psychedelic researcher known only by the pseudonym D.M. Turner drew a hot bath, injected himself with an unknown amount of ketamine, and settled in for the last trip of his life. When his body was found weeks later, the cause of death was determined to be natural causes. It is assumed that Mr. Turner lost consciouness at some point during the evening, slid under the water, and quietly drowned. But no one really knows what happened that night. Taking into account ketamine's extremely low toxicity levels, it is highly improbable that this was an overdose situation. However, since Mr. Turner was also one of ketamine's greatest advocates, it is ominous that his is the first publicly known ketamine-related death. His passing is a truly sad and perplexing loss for all of us, and we will no doubt miss his articulate and insightful voice.

The above illustration is a conceptual portrait of D.M. Turner – a man who shall forever remain psuedonymous.

Recollection One

D.M. Turner, psychonautic researcher, author, and pioneer passed on to the other side on the night of Dec. 31, 1996. Those who did not know him personally will remember him through his books, and whatever mysterious and mythic status he had will surely grow as these works continue to circulate and reach new readers.

Turner's first book, *The Essential Psychedelic Guide* (originally titled *The Psychedelic Explosion* by Anonymous) existed as a manuscript in progress for over a year. Chapters of the book circulated to as far as Europe before the completed work was published. Turner followed up this groundbreaking first work with an equally insightful book called *Salvinorin — The Psychedelic Essence of Salvia Divinorum*.

Turner's work with Salvinorin A started in late 1994 when this newly discovered isolate quickly became legendary for its ultra-bizarre effects. Mr. Turner cultivated fearlessness as a kind of yoga or spiritual path, and Salvinorin A gave him some of his most intense rewards. According to him, "The entire experience remains largely incomprehensible, and there exists the feeling of having just stepped over the threshold into an immensely vast dimension."

Mr. Turner was in the process of revising his *Essential Psychedelic Guide*, but as the changes may never come to light, it should be stated that his opinion of ketamine had changed considerably. He was sensitive to safety issues, and was increasingly troubled by what he called the "psychedelic heroin" properties of ketamine. He confided in friends that DMT, which he considered his most helpful ally, had a difficult time counteracting the addictive and increasingly life-negative effects of this drug. DMT conveyed to him that ketamine was a sort of "Frankenstein molecule" that didn't obey the shamanic rules, and he was given several warnings to drop it from his program. Ultimately, his failure to completely do so led to his untimely passing.

Those who were fortunate enough to know him as a friend will remember him as a true gentleman of the cosmos. He was the kind of person who could have his identity sucked though a "black hole of consciousness" on weekends, yet was chided by co-workers for wearing suits in a casual office environment (if they only knew!). He was someone who pulled out a salmon teriyaki for a surprised group after an *ayahuasca* journey in the mountains at 3 a.m. He was known to choose high-end audio equipment by 'dosing' himself and then having a friend drive him around to stores to listen to various systems.

He collected rare albums, seashells and minerals. He was especially fascinated with light shining through dense objects. He had a number of fine kaleidoscopes, built stands upon which bowling ball-sized translucent crystals would slowly rotate while lasers beamed up from below, and crafted wood furniture with panels inset with thin layers of onyx which glowed from carefully placed back lighting. He knew every plant in the nearby arboretum, grew cacti, and loved to travel to the deserts of the Southwest.

Like the art he surrounded himself with, his life was infused with the exotic. He had molted out of his identities so many times that his persona had become a collage of interdimensional images, perspectives, alliances, and understanding. This process allowed a gradual refinement which marked his character to all who knew him. He was a master of details and discernment, and

There was a feeling that I'd left the plane of living before I was planning to, and I regretted that I'd left many things uncompleted. I remember saying to myself, 'Oh shit, I really did it this time.' I thought I could get away with skirting the edge of immortality and keep coming back. This time I went a little too far...

though a very private person, loved to share the things he enjoyed with those who could appreciate them. His friends found him exceptionally considerate, trustworthy and nonjudgemental.

As an explorer he felt motivated to describe the landscapes he passed through, help show the way, and provide information for safe passage. He incurred personal risk with the publication of his books, but held nothing back but his name. Only in the last months of his life did he divulge his literary identity to his parents.

His work has helped spark an emerging psychedelic community. He was always aware of his role in this community, and always very appreciative of it. Sadly, he has now completed his work. Let his example be stimulus for us to carry on with our own.

Recollection Two

I first met D.M. Turner in 1994 shortly before his first book was published. Photocopies of a few of the chapters had been circulating in the psychedelic underground, and when I was given a copy of the chapter "DMT – Candy For The Mind", I knew I had to meet the author. I had also been doing quite a bit of experimenting with DMT, and we seemed to be on the same wavelength. Not since Gracie and Zarkov's "Notes From Underground" had I read anything that contained so much useful first-hand information.

I wrote a long letter to D.M. Turner and a mutual friend forwarded it to him. Thus began a long and very enjoyable correspondence between us. We discovered we were both major Hendrix fans, so if we were not discussing our experiences of altered states, we were talking about Hendrix.

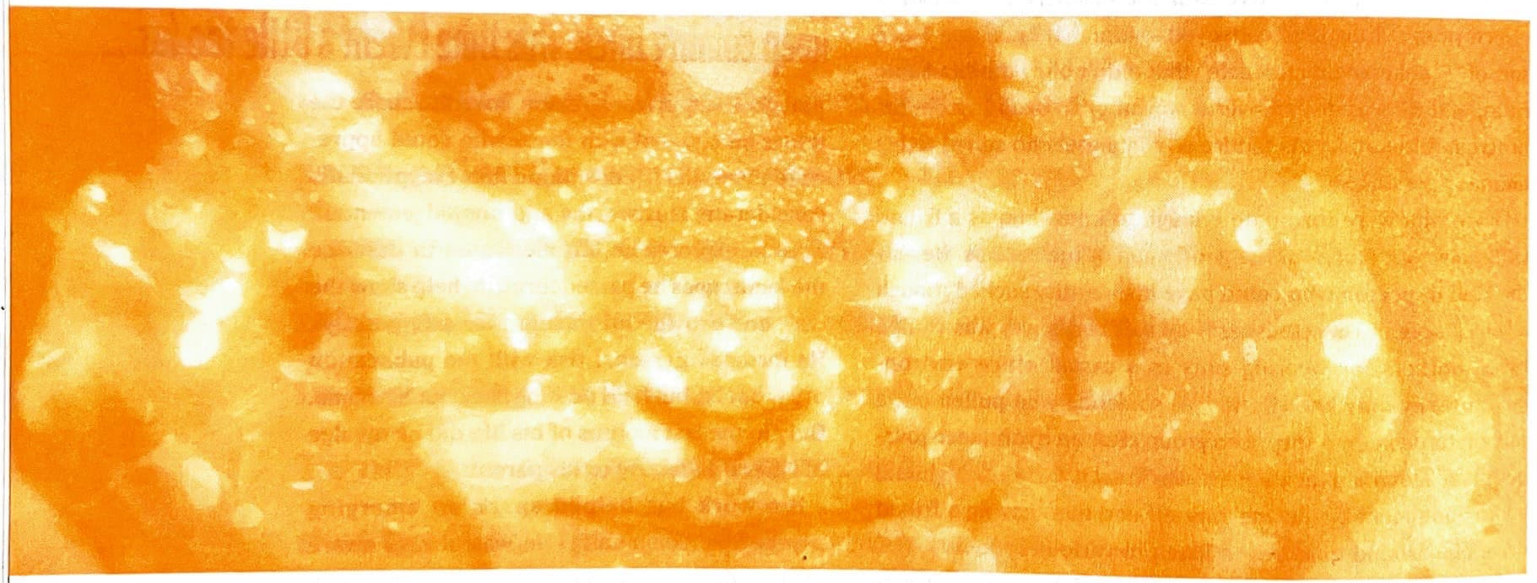
In 1995 I started driving to San Francisco to see Mr. Turner. He was a very private person, and there was usually never anyone at his house while I was visiting. When I first met him, I was surprised by his small stature. I didn't expect the person who enjoyed, even required, such heroic doses of most substances to be of such a slight build.

His house was always organized and immaculate, he was a very meticulous person in everything he did. Nowhere was his attention to detail more evident than in his woodworking, he was a craftsman of the highest order. He did not make furniture commercially but just for his own use. He spared no expense in the creation of these pieces, and I have never seen woodworking of such high quality in my life.

For a couple of years prior to our meeting, Mr. Turner had a laser light company and he would do shows at raves in the Bay Area. He collected crystals and minerals, and made a trip down to Arizona each year for the large gem and mineral show held there. While in Arizona, he would go to the desert and take his favorite entheogen, mescaline, in the desert environment he loved so much.

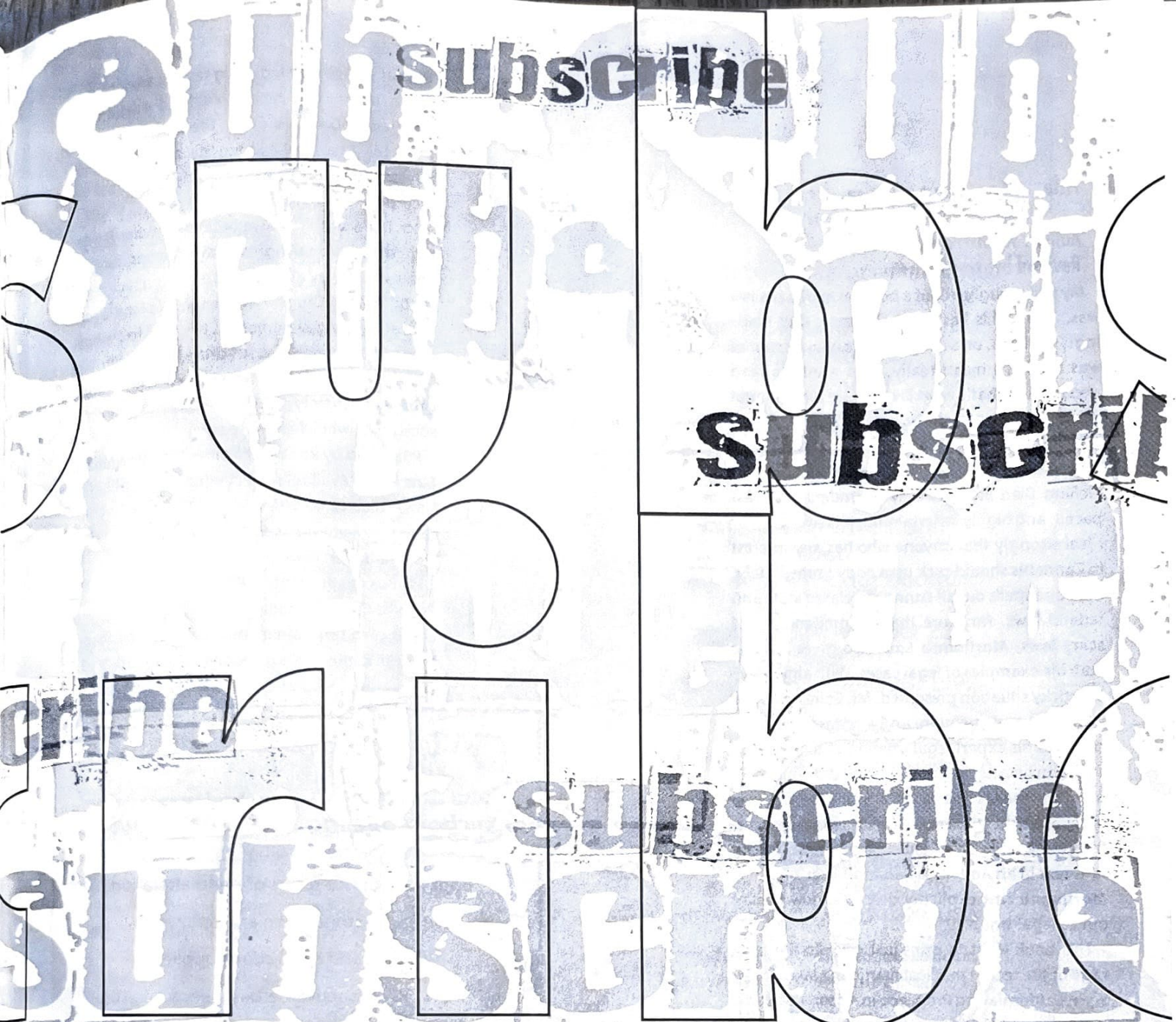
D.M. Turner had been struggling with a psychological addiction to ketamine for a few years. In 1996 he had gotten it under control to the point where he would use it mostly as a reward for having accomplished a certain task or project. He had become increasingly aware of the down side of ketamine use and how it negatively affected his relationship with the natural entheogens. He was always interested in the rare and exotic compounds, and was hoping to write a book on Ibogaine as his next project. Undoubtedly he could have shed much light on this little understood substance.

I am left with just memories now – of long, animated conversations late into the night, and the warmth of understanding from someone who shared many of my same interests. He had more integrity and courage than most. I learned a lot from him in our all too brief time together... he is sorely missed. Take care my friend.



The story of life is quicker than the wink of an eye.
The story of love is hello and good-bye...
until we meet again.

– Jimi Hendrix



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Title: *Marijuana Law Review – Second Edition*
Author: *Richard Glen Boire*
Reviewd by: *Jon hanna*

My first thought about a book on marijuana law was, "Man, this has got to be some DRY reading!" Perhaps, on seeing this title, your response was similar. I mean really, who wants to read about laws—that's what lawyers are for! I cannot over-emphasize how misguided my first impression was.

Marijuana Law, by criminal-defense attorney Richard Glen Boire, is easy to understand, fast paced, and highly entertaining. It is so good that I feel strongly that anyone who has any interest in Cannabis should pick up a copy immediately. Mr. Boire spells out all *Cannabis* related state and federal laws. Far more than a compendium of scary laws, ***Marijuana Law*** also gives specific real-life examples of legal cases. With almost every sticky situation presented, Mr. Boire gives two examples—a conviction, and a release, and then provides his expert legal opinion as to why each situation turned out the way that it did. This commentary makes the book a valuable defense manual for the layperson. If knowledge is power, then Mr. Boire's book could be the most important text in an American *Cannabis* user's library. ***Marijuana Law*** explicitly describes how to stay out of legal trouble.

This book went to print just prior to the passage of the recent medical marijuana laws, Prop. 215 in California and Prop. 200 in Arizona, so there is no speculation on how these new laws will effect the status quo. The interested reader would be wise to subscribe to Mr. Boire's newsletter, The Entheogen Law Reporter, to keep abreast of the latest developments.

While ***Marijuana Law*** focuses on *Cannabis*, the legal advice is also relevant to many other currently scheduled plants and drugs, making the book quite valuable to any entheogen user. Mr. Boire spells out what an individual's constitutional rights are, and he explains how to assert them effectively. He lets the reader know what type of action is appropriate to take when confronted by the police. Covering searches and seizures, gardens, medical necessity, religious defenses, what to do if you're arrested, drug testing advice, and much more, this new expanded edition of ***Marijuana Law*** is a must. The most important point that I can make about this book is that the advice presented is easy for any individual to incorporate into his or her life-style.

Mr. Boire writes, "I have become convinced that the constitutional rights created to protect us against runaway government are being sacrificed in the War on Drugs. The *Cannabis* plant is not evil; arbitrary government is. It is time to change our way of thinking about drugs. Long after the hysteria has subsided, we will be left not with a drug-free society, but rather with a less-free society." I wholeheartedly agree.

Published by Ronin Publishing, Inc, ***Marijuana Law*** is also available directly from the author for $15.95 plus $3.50 S/H. CA residents add $1.15 for sales tax. ***Send payment to:***

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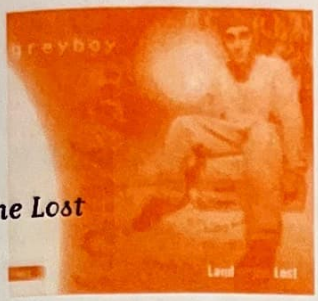

Title: *Land of the Lost*
Band: *greyboy*
Label: *Ubiquity*

Greyboy is one of the few groups that manages to successfully fuse DJ and live music into acid jazz. When I think of the term acid jazz, this is the type of music that dances in my head. This incarnation of *greyboyy* consists of Karl Denson (tenor and soprano sax, and flute), Harold Todd (Tenor sax and flute), Elgin Park (bass), Steve Haney (percussion), Robert Walter (keys), and greyboy who throws the whole thing together in a smooth non-posturing blend.

Land of the Lost is *greyboy's* long awaited second album.The album is constructed in classic *Bop* fashion with intro, ***Whirlwind***, centered title track, and outro, ***Outerlude 2***. Yet what separates *greyboy* from some of the other acid jazz bands out there is the perfect length of the songs.

So many of the better acid jazz bands are truly "live" bands, and come off poorly on record — *Groove Collective*, *Incognito*, and *the Solsonics* spring to mind. Whereas *Groove Collective* is as successful at creating layers of rump-swaying jazz, their songs feel more like recorded jam sessions than preconstructed songs. *greyboy* manages to generate a that's just as powerful and just as alive, with less instruments and a better sense of album pace. It should be noted that *greyboy* and/or the band the *greyboy all-stars* are just as good, if not better, live.

In fact, the album is so finely crafted that the only annoying moment is a too abrupt fade out on the title track, ***Land of the Lost***. But even this mild awkwardness dissolves as the flow resumes with *Top Floor*.

· For most of the album, greyboy himself remains in the back ground mixing and orchestrating the project. For the most part, the album is pure, dare I say luscious, groove heavy jazz. It isn't until the last song, ***Outerlude 2***, that greyboy himself takes the stage and you're aware that a DJ has been orchestrating your experience. ***Outerlude 2*** is a shining point on the album and serves as fitting closure, placing the entirety of the album within a coherent framework. As *Outerlude* ends, one is left with the realization that the album was crafted with a powerful unified vision.

So, open a bottle of red wine, light your spliff, and sit back and enjoy the sonic scenery in the ***Land of the Lost***.

— a.c. chapman

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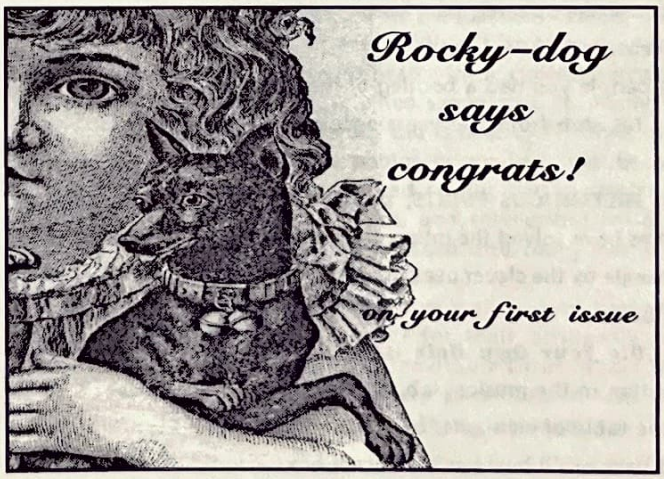
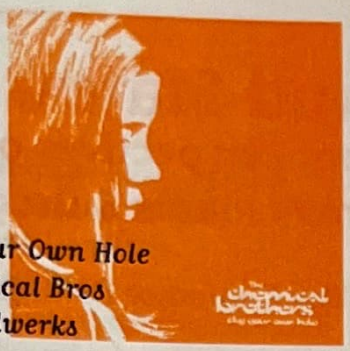




Title: *Dig Your Own Hole*
Band: *Chemical Bros*
Label: *Astralwerks*

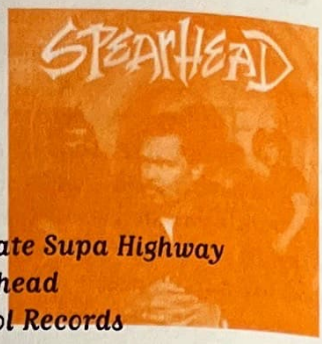
O.K., so now even your Mom likes the ***Chemical Brahs***. Just cause stinky ass, guitar lovin, 60's relic, trendoid, bandwagon, "really-we've-always-liked-electronic/dance/samplin'-music-we-just-couldn't-be-bothered-to-write about/review-any-of-it-till-the-Billboard-folks-said-it-was-alright," shitty excuse for toilet paper magazines, have proclaimed them **THE NEXT BIG THING**, doesn't mean you can't enjoy them. All you need is condescension! Here's everything you need to know to put every one else to shame when discussing ***Los Bros Chemicales!!!*** Any one of these will make Mom go back to Joan Baez!

- Say you liked the first album better, cause all the songs were ***blended***.
- Remark how well suited Keith Murrays rhymes are to the Brothers' ***sound scape***.
- Talk about how refreshing it is that they are so in touch with their ***old school*** rap roots.
- Refer to them as the ***Dust Brothers, UK***, insist that they should have kept the name despite the lawsuits.
- Declare that the irritatingly omnipresent ***Setting Sun***, is better without that annoying ***Noel Gallagher*** from Oasis, and that even Bono could (and will probably try to) have done his job.
- Say that this album has their weakest song, ***piku***, because the opening part keeps reminding you of ***Neutron Dance***.
- Tell people you had a bootleg of them spinning at a ***UK club*** from five years ago, but the tape warped.

EXTRA PRETENTIOUS POINTS, point out how the Chems have solved the inherent un-danceability of ***jungle*** by the clever use of fades to complicate the beats.

Still, ***Dig Your Own Hole*** is an intoxicating concoction in the musical lab, and these kids still rock the table of elements, babe. Tell Mom I want my cd back or I'll bust her in the snot box.

— Carlos Walker



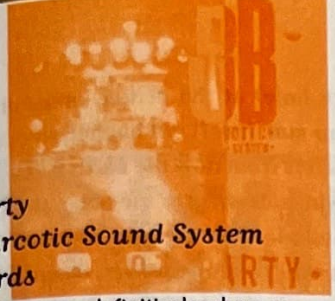
Title: *Chocolate Supa Highway*
Band: *Spearhead*
Label: *Capitol Records*

If ***Spearhead's*** debut, ***Home***, was aimed at the alterative audience, then ***Chocolate Supa Highway*** is Michael Franti's aim to discover his Bay Area/Rap/Raga roots. For the most part, he's successful, except for unfortunate moments when he regresses into alternative-hippy-happy sappyness.

The ***Supa Highway*** boots up with the title track and "Keep Me Lifted," that has a *Digital Underground* vibe. At first I was irritated by Franti's twin-of-Tupac flow, but then he comes with the lines," You be jumping to conclusions/I think you spent your whole life watching cable in seclusion/illusions about what's outside your door/one niggy/ two niggy/ three niggy four/robbin every house and every liquor store." With lyricals like that you gotta give hims tha hall pass — and he keeps it up too.

Even if Franti doesn't have the most elaberate style, he still has the ability to take your expectations and start flipping shit all over 'em. On *Why Oh, Why*, he takes an Outkast like audio, and gives a 'back in the day' rhyme that's crackin'. *Gas Gauge (The World Is In Your Hands)* is a beautifully told cautionary tale with a *Gap* sample. But what keeps ***Supa Highway*** elevated is the way Franti relinquishes the mic to his R&B guest vocalists and other MCs. *Rebel Music* is a straight up Reggae track, and the R&B injected *U Can't Sing R Song* and the Mary Jane ode, *Ganja Babe* all shine. *Wayfarin' Stranger* on the other hand is that feelgood hippy dud I was talking about earlier. The sample is good but the uber ernest-folky vocals made my skin crawl. Road trip status: good get high music.

— Carlos Walker



Title: *Boot Party*
Band: *Dub Narcotic Sound System*
Label: *K Records*

It's always difficult to say definitively where movements and genres originate; but surely, electronica, trance, and hip-hop owe as much of a nod toward Dub as they do toward the inventiveness of *Grand Master Flash* and the minimalist movement.

Dub started in the streets and studios of Jamaica—sprung from the R&B roots of Ska, alongside Reggae. Indeed, *Grand Master Flash* and his hip-hop brethren owe much to the transient truck-mounted DJ battles that wound their way through the Jamaican towns.

Dub, from its inception, has been a straight forward equation. Take two heaping spoonfuls of deep bass beats, season with MC lyrics and live instruments, have one master DJ add samplings to taste, and shake the whole thing up 'till all the bottoms are a wigglin'.

Dub Narcotic take this forumla and spin unerring booty-bobbing tunes. ***Boot Party*** is their first full length LP. Dub Narcotic has long been a K Records project and this release is just another example that Olympia has more to offer the world than punk rock, folk singers. amd frightening legislation (not that I dislike punk or folk).

Boot Party gets off to a false start with *Test Pattern*, then moves into the bottom heavy *Monkey Hips and Rice*. The mostly nonsense lyrics compliment and echo the solid bass lines throughout.

Ship to Shore follows, shining slightly brighter than the other songs on the album. Lois (of the band *Lois*) lends her voice to the mix in a song about the intricasies of life after breaking up and the persistence of life. "It's hard enough to try not to remember. / It's hard enough to write Return to Sender. / It's hard enough to know it's over when it's over." Lois' vocals give one a sense of empathy and strength that you just don't hear coming out of your stereo too often.

Super Dub Narcotic, Robotica, and *Bunny Echo* are episodic beat explorations that fiddle with the base of your brain. On *Afi-tione*, Jennifer Smith sings about a scene of desire and dismissal by the water that, as lain over surreal beats, is both alluring and perturbing.

The album is rounded out by the evenly spaced happy-go-nonsense *Monkey Hips and Rice, Shake a Puddin* and *Boot Party*. When all's been properly stirred, mixed, and bounced, *Boot Party* manages to say, "Whether you're happy or sad, if you start shaking your puddin, everything will start getting better."

— a.c. chapman

Title: *Hot*
Band: *Squirrel Nut Zippers*
Label: *Mammoth Recording Company*

It's always difficult for me to say with unwavering certainty that I'm happy when a favorite band starts to make it big. So I'm of two minds about the *Squirrel Nut Zippers'* current MTV Buzz Bin status. On the one hand, you could search quite a while and not find many groups more deserving of a wide audience than this Chapel Hill, North Carolina band. On the other hand, I'm not sure I'm ready for a crop of major-label *Squirrel Nut* clones.

The *Squirrel Nut Zippers* are riding high and ahead of the swing culture revival lurking just below mass-media awareness in many cities across America — evidence of which is only as far away as MTV or your local rec hall. And ***Hot***, the *Squirrel Nut Zippers'* solid second release, is as good a swing album as you're likely to find. The entire album was recorded live in a New Orleans' church, and manages to capture, as successfully as any album can, the energy and freshness of a band that enjoys playing live. ***Hot*** moves from upbeat to languid with a seamless, timeless flow.

Hell, a mambo, is the best song on the album, capturing all the energy and oddity of a music that finds its roots in spiritualism and movement. How could you not like a song whose chorus spells out Damnation in a cheerleader-esque call and response? *Bad Businessman* continues the theme with shoe-kicking success. *Put a Lid on It* is the most playful song on ***Hot***, while *Blue Angel, It Ain't You, Flight of the Passing Fancy*, and *Meant To Be* deal with familiar themes of love and loss which seem to take on new meaning when cast in this retro light.

Hot also offers the bonus of coming packaged in CDPlus format. A CDPlus is a new breed a combination musical album and multi-media CDRom — which for the most part hasn't lived up to its potential. The multi-media content on most albums released in the CDPlus format, with the exception of Peter Gabriel's ambitious works, has been limited to pretty lame concert footage and sub-par music video sequences. Surprisingly, the CD-Rom aspect of ***Hot*** is beautifully done, providing interviews, photos, original art, concert footage, not enough of lead singer and guitarist James Mathus' short film, and interesting insight into what it's like to record and hang out with the *Squirrel Nut Zippers*.

There are a few slow points, and I still have a lingering fondness for their brilliantly uneven debut album, The Inevitable *Squirrel Nut Zippers*, but ***Hot*** is definitely an album to add to your collection and keep in regular rotation.

— a.c. chapman

continued from page 39

unconscious mind; personal self and transpersonal self; right-brain and left-brain; happiness and sadness; logic and emotion; body and spirit; not to mention mother and father. Many believe that the key to a happy well-adjusted life is to simply find a healthy balance within all of these opposing forces – something that is no doubt easier said than done.

A simple right-brain/left-brain meditation is to sit upright and hold your arms in front of you at shoulder height. Turn your palms forward, and as you inhale make a fist with your right hand. Imagine that you are pulling energy in through the *chakra* on your left palm. Exhale energy back out the left palm, and as you breath in again, open your right hand and close your left. As you inhale energy through your right palm, you will feel a tide roll from the left to the right side of your body.

orbits & cycles

When two forces are attracted to each other they will either collide instantly or just decide to dance around each other for a while. Electrons orbit around protons; the moon orbits around the earth; the earth orbits around the sun; the sun orbits around the center of the galaxy; and the galaxy orbits around the center of the universe. The symbol for an orbit is a ball with another smaller ball travelling in a circle around it.

Everything travels in orbits around something else. This is just a simple mechanism of the universe. Orbits are the way discrete pieces of physical matter define their space. There are all kinds of orbits; wide orbits; eccentric orbits; figure 8 and cloverleaf orbits; synchronous orbits; symbiotic orbits; etc. Some orbits are very strong and will last forever unless they are acted upon by an outside force. Other orbits are doomed to spiral faster and faster into eventual collisions or separations.

To maintain healthy orbits within your life, it is always good to nurture and strengthen the bonds that hold your relationships together. Some orbits are very tight and need constant attention, others are infrequent and only need to be maintained once in a while. There is usually a silent mutual understanding between people considering the orbits they will keep in regards to one another. Too far is bad, too close is bad, but a comfortable distance somewhere in the middle is just right. This allows each person to have her or his own space while still being able to share the mutual space which holds them together.

spirals & vortices

Spirals are fascinating phenomenon caused by a gradually expanding or gradually collapsing orbit. Most spirals are so mathematically uniform that their motion is literally hypnotizing to look at. It is somehow horrifying and comforting at the same time to see that all spirals move on such mechanically predetermined paths, and that the outcome of the trajectory is undeniable. Our galaxy is a sea of stars spiralling around a great bulge (possibly a black hole) at the center, and our planet is slowly spiralling into our sun. It will not happen in our lifetime, or anytime soon, but aeons from now the earth will surely suffer a slow hot death as it winds down into the solar sinkhole. Yes, there is something morbidly fascinating about spirals.

Spirals pop up everywhere: springs; drains; pinwheels; shells; weather patterns; galaxies; geometry; DNA; high-energy particle interactions; etc. The symbol for a spiral is an arc which moves around a central point in tighter and tighter or greater and greater orbits.

Spirals are all about spinning, getting dizzy, and then finally losing it by collapsing uncontrollably inward or uncontrollably breaking loose. Not only can your body spin, but your thoughts can spin too. Most of our thoughts orbit around certain important tasks and problems, but some thoughts inevitably spiral way out of control (up, down, sideways...). These thought spirals generally affect mood and self-image, and some say that getting too roped into these spirals can be unhealthy. Most people prefer calm and stable orbits, but there are some people who genuinely thrive on the dizzying energy of spirals alone. If you want spirals, start dizzying your pace.

neutral, the null

Within every duality system there pops up a strange phenomenon known as the null. It is not at odds with anything. It does not seek unique interactions. It does not react to either light or dark. It is the neutron. It is ambivalent. It is neither one nor the other. It is neutral.

The null has neither sex nor electric charge, but it has mass. As far as anyone can tell, the null has no other purpose than to just hang out, take up space and time, and not cause any trouble. In the unending battle between the dualistic forces of the universe, the null is the time out, the pause, the idle, the filler, the maybe, the pass bet, the comma, and the no comment of the universe. There are many recognized symbols for the null, but the most common is an empty circle with a diagonal line through it.

The null is the simplest yet probably the most perplexing of all the harmonic constants. The null just simply is. It is the silent passing of time; the hanging out with nothing to do; and the soft moments which pass unnoticed and undisturbed. It is the quiet contentment of being neither happy nor sad, but just simply being.

Thus endeth the lesson for this time. Stay tuned for Lesson II – The Morphology of Mysticism. Lesson II will include discussions on crosses, unities, trinities, mandalas, magnetic fields, fractals, sacred geometry, and much more. See ya' then.

James Kent is a writer and web designer by day, Director of The Resonance Project by night. He currently lives in Seattle, and can be reached via e-mail at jameslkent@aol.com.

TOM the DANCING bug

BY RUBEN BOLLING
TOMDBUG@AOL.COM

GOD-MAN

THE SUPERHERO WITH OMNIPOTENT POWERS!

THIS WEEK'S EPISODE: DOUBLE-DANGER!!

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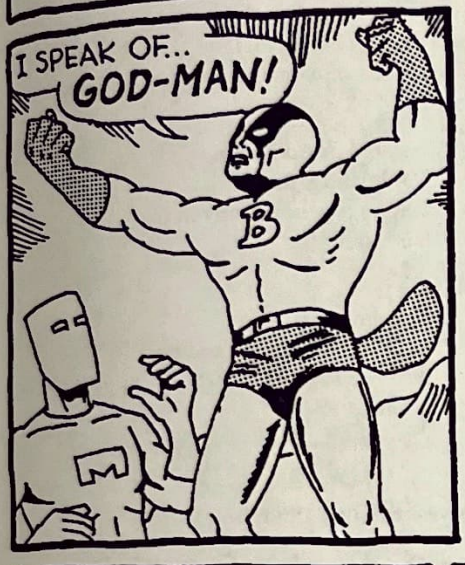
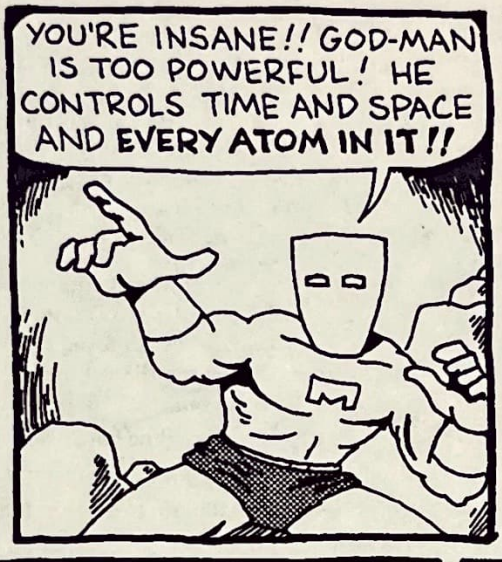
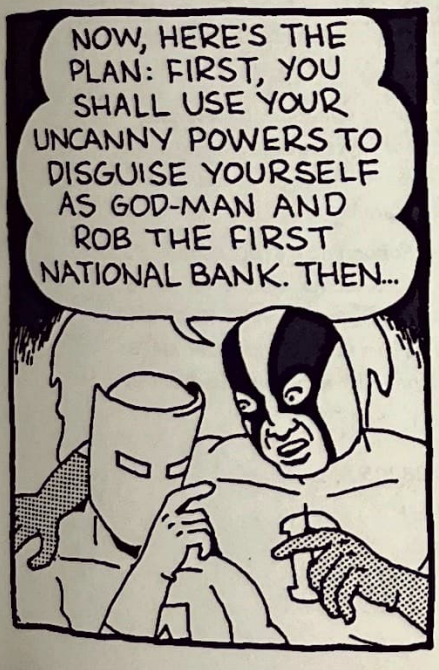
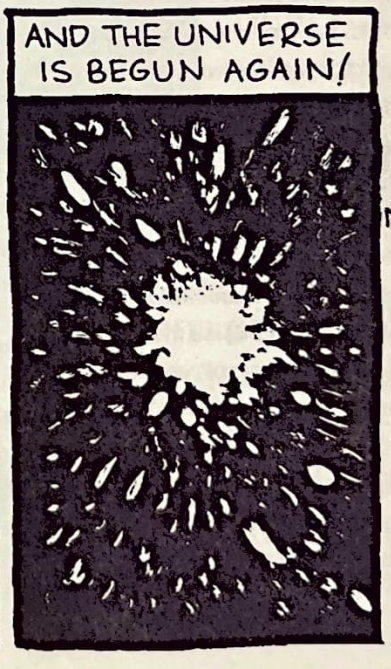




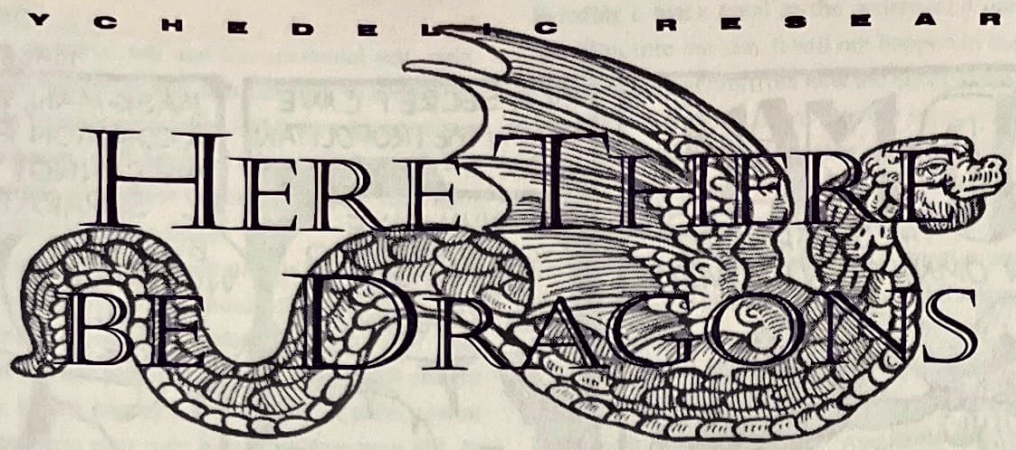




AND SO GOD-MAN NARROWLY AVERTS THE PERIL OF THAT EVIL DUO...

FOR NOW!!

PSYCHEDELIC RESEARCH



JUST six hundred years ago, maps of the known world contained the inscription, *"Here there be dragons,"* indicating *terra incognita* about which we knew nothing and hence feared to tread. Today we find this viewpoint exceedingly quaint. What changed? Knowledge and information was gathered by souls brave enough to challenge orthodoxy and venture into those uncharted realms inhabited by dragons. They returned with first-hand information that refuted "common knowledge" and led to a revised worldview.

Today, knowledge of our physical environment has expanded beyond belief. Regarding our inner environment, however, many still fear that *"here there be dragons."* Replacing fear with understanding will require the use of every tool available, including psychedelic substances, to increase our knowledge of the internal terrain. Unfortunately, using psychedelics to explore these uncharted landscapes was forbidden for several decades.

Recently a few brave scientists have been permitted to make the trek and conduct psychedelic research. Would you like to have access to results of that research, and become part of this continuing "quest for knowledge?"

The **Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS)** is a membership-based IRS-approved non-profit research and educational corporation founded in 1986. MAPS assists scientists to design, to obtain governmental approval for, to fund, to conduct and to report on research into the healing and spiritual potentials of psychedelics.

You are invited to join MAPS in supporting this research:

MDMA (Ecstasy)	Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, CA Charles Grob, M.D., and Russell Poland, M.D. On-going safety studies, proposed study of MDMA psychotherapy in the treatment of pain & psychological distress in cancer patients
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LSD	Orenda Institute, Baltimore, MD Richard Yensen, Ph.D., and Donna Dryer, M.D. Proposed FDA-approved study of LSD psychotherapy and peak experiences in the treatment of substance abusers
Peyote	Tribeca Research, New York, NY Neal Goldsmith, Ph.D. Proposed ethnographic study of peyote in the treatment of alcoholics as used by the Native American Church
Ayahuasca	Dennis McKenna, Ph.D., Charles Grob, M.D., & James Callaway, Ph.D. On-going safety studies into the long-term effects of ayahuasca as it is used in syncretic churches in Brazil

Your financial support is needed to translate hard-won scientific freedom into new data. Unfortunately, funding for research into the beneficial uses of psychedelics has not been forthcoming from government, foundations or pharmaceutical companies. Donations from private individuals have proven crucial to the renewal of research.

General Membership – $35, Students & Low-Income – $20, Supporting – $100, Patron – $250+. Outside the US add $15 for postage. Sample newsletter – $10. SASE for information. MAPS' quarterly newsletter is mailed in a sealed envelope and our mailing list is confidential. New members who mention ***The Resonance Project*** *will also receive the latest full-sized MAPS newsletter. Donations may be restricted to specific research projects, and are tax-deductible.*

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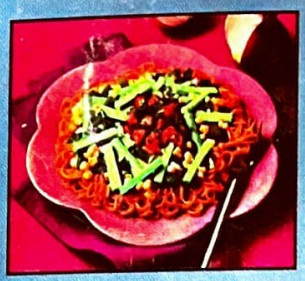

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